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A COMPARATIVE INVESTIGATION OF THE PERCEPTION OF STATUSES
AND IMAGES OF SELECTED PROFESSIONS AMONG EIGHTH
AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS FROM SELECTED HIGH
SCHOOLS IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA
1963-1964

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

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JUNE, 1967

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Some professions rank higher than do others. The ranking of a profession is usually evaluated in terms of its occupational importance to the community. There is consensus based on the value system of the society. We know that those who produce food are as important, if not more so, than are those who manage its distribution. Yet, we generally rank the occupation of merchant higher than we rank that of the farmer.¹

Also, societies, as well as individuals themselves, differ in the prestige they give to different occupations. Americans, who are devoted to business enterprise, tend to give highest prestige to successful businessmen. The major exception to this in our society is the high prestige given to key statesmen and highly successful professionals. But the glamour accorded businessmen in high governmental positions reveals that basically we grant businessmen high prestige. In contrast, ancient Sparta gave highest honor to its soldiers, China to its scholars, and medieval Europe to its clergy. The primary orientation of a society determines the profession to which it assigns highest prestige and this orientation has a great

¹Earl H. Bell and John Sirjamaki, Social Foundations of Human Behavior (New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1965), p. 439.

affect on the occupational choices of pupils from childhood until such time as they enter the occupational world themselves.¹

Frequently, sociological writings have stressed the importance of occupational category as a determinant of numerous aspects of interpersonal relations. Simmel, according to Nelson and McDonagh, observed that the very fact that a person has a vocation will always be linked to his life in its entirety. Gross, according to Nelson and McDonagh, states that:

In present western society, occupation has become a fundamental index of status and a standard of self-respect. A man's social position, economic welfare, and perhaps most of his daily habits are determined by the kind of work he does.²

Finally, it may be observed that generalizations, suggesting that occupational status determines behavior, are more characteristic of the profession than they are of any other categories of occupation.³

Statement of Problem

This study asks the following questions:

1. How do eighth and twelfth grade pupils perceive statuses of selected professions according to sex and grade?
2. How do the images of the professions compare with each other when eighth and twelfth grade pupils rank each selected profession according to twelve selected variables?

¹Ibid., p. 439.

²Harold Nelson and Edward C. McDonagh, "Perception of Statuses and Images of Selected Professions," Sociology and Social Research, XLVI (October, 1961), p. 3.

³Ibid., p. 3.

3. How do twelfth grade pupils' perception of statuses and images compare with those of California seniors in Nelson and McDonagh's study?

Hypotheses.--The present study attempts to test the following propositions:

1. That there are observable differences in the perception of statuses when eighth and twelfth grade pupils rank selected professions,
2. That there are observable differences in the perception of images when eighth and twelfth grade pupils rank each profession according to twelve variables, also,
3. That there are differences in the statuses and images of twelfth grade pupils in this study and the findings of Nelson and McDonagh in their study using California seniors.

Definition of Terms

The following operational definitions of terms are used in this study:

Perception.--This term means the activity of sensing, interpreting, and appreciating objects both physical and social. Sensing the world around us involves reactions to varied physical and social stimuli which constitute the environment. Moreover, the sensing is determined by the particular sensory process that we use at any given time.¹

¹Kimball Young, Social Psychology (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1956), p. 59.

Image.--Image means a mental picture or mental conception held in common by a group, a person, a class, a racial type, or a nationality.¹

Status.--This concept refers to the result of the ranking of a role by a group. All societies differentiate their members in terms of roles and all societies evaluate them differently. Some roles are regarded as more important or socially more valuable than others, and the person who performs a more highly esteemed role is regarded more highly. Status, then, is the rank-order position assigned by a group to a role or to a set of roles.²

Profession.--This term means an occupation based on a long process of formal assimilation of theoretical knowledge upon which professional activity is based. The gaining of intellectual technique is acquired by special training and can be applied to some sphere of every day life.³

Methodology

The methodology for the study is based on Nelson and McDonagh's research on perceptions of statuses and images of selected professions. The professions which were chosen to illustrate pupils' perception of

¹Herbert Bonner, Social Psychology: Inter-Disciplinary Approach (New York: American Book Company, 1953), p. 66.

²Eva Rosenfeld, "Social Stratification in a Classless Society," American Sociological Review, XVI (December, 1951), 768.

³Sigmund Nosow and William H. Form, Man, Work, and Society: A Reader in the Sociology of Occupations (New York: Basic Books, Inc., 1962), p. 197.

statuses are as follows: (1) business executive, (2) clergy, (3) dentist, (4) college professor, (5) engineer, (6) high school teacher, (7) lawyer, (8) physician, and (9) social worker.

Twelve independent variables were included in the study to ascertain pupils' perception of images. They are: (1) general appearance, (2) personality, (3) intelligence, (4) honesty, (5) prestige, (6) power, (7) security, (8) income, (9) community activity, (10) individual aid, (11) altruism, and (12) general value to the community.

A questionnaire consisting of three parts was the instrument for data collection and measurement. The first part of the instrument attempts to gain general information about the pupil; the second part attempts to measure the pupils' perception of statuses of the professions; and the third part attempts to measure the pupils' perception of images of the professions.

The groups used in the study were eighth and twelfth grade pupils from selected high schools in Atlanta, Georgia, during the 1964 summer school session. The selected high schools were Harper and Price. Students from all over Atlanta attend these schools during the summer. The pupils enrolled in the summer sessions of these high schools are somewhat representative of the pupils enrolled in the regular school session.

According to counselors, the pupils attending summer school fall into three categories:

1. Those who have failed a grade and were trying to catch up or do make-up work,

2. Those who were attending summer school in order to eliminate boredom or to have something to do to occupy their time, and
3. Those who were seeking to advance themselves academically.

Since the classes were relatively small, a sample, consisting of all eighth and twelfth grade pupils who were enrolled in these summer schools, was drawn. Over three hundred questionnaires were administered. However, after the elimination of those questionnaires that were not usable for reasons of failure to follow directions, mis-marking or omitting items, the sample consisted of seventy-one eighth grade pupils and one hundred and seventy-four twelfth grade pupils, making a total of two hundred and forty-five.

Among the seventy-one eighth grade pupils, there were twenty-nine females and forty-two males; among the one hundred and seventy-four twelfth grade pupils, there were ninety-one females and eighty-three males.

It is assumed that pupils completing elementary school have different perceptions of statuses and images of professions when compared with twelfth grade pupils who are about to graduate. The seniors have had more time to think about the profession which they will aspire to enter.

Research on the perception of statuses and images of selected professions was treated analytically as well as descriptively by Nelson and McDonagh.¹ Even though the present study utilized the

¹Nelson and McDonagh, op. cit., p. 7.

professions and images from their research, it treats the subject descriptively only. The ranking of the nine selected professions by the students from their first to ninth choices will constitute statuses; and, in a like manner, the ranking of the nine selected professions in terms of the twelve variables will constitute images.

Nelson and McDonagh used twelve variables and divided them into three categories. The variables used in this study are the same, however, the variables are not categorized as they were by the previously mentioned researchers. Since the present study treats the subject descriptively only, it is to be considered as a modified replication rather than as an exact replication.

Limitations of Study

This study is affected by the following limitations:

1. The study is limited to eighth and twelfth grade pupils who attended summer school in 1964 at Harper and Price High Schools in Atlanta, Georgia.
2. The study, as in many studies, is limited to the willingness of the pupils to respond objectively and truthfully to the questionnaire.
3. The study is limited to the reliability of the measuring instrument to obtain the images and statuses of professions as perceived by the students.

Related Literature

Research regarding the statuses and images of selected professions was done by Harold Nelson and Edward McDonagh. Their hypotheses were as follows:

- (a) Occupation is analytically valuable only when taken in conjunction with cues or cue variables.

- (b) Various symbolic cues or variables have little positive correlation with various status hierarchies.
- (c) Occupational structure must be viewed as consisting of multiple hierarchies that are dependent upon the cues predominant in the social situation.¹

To test the hypotheses, the following procedure was undertaken by the researchers:

- (1) A list of selected professions was formulated and students were asked to rank them from their first to ninth choices. These selected professions were divided into three aspects consisting of the personal man, the receiving man, and the service man. Into each aspect, four variables were placed.
- (2) Personal Man
 - a. general appearance
 - b. personality
 - c. intelligence
 - d. honesty
- (3) The Receiving Man
 - a. prestige (admiration)
 - b. power (influence)
 - c. security (freedom from worry)
 - d. income
- (4) The Service Man
 - a. community activity
 - b. individual aid (helping others)
 - c. altruism (sacrificing for others)
 - d. general value to the community²

After the students had ranked the professions, they were asked to rank the applicability of twelve variables to the professions.

¹Ibid., p. 7.

²Ibid., p. 8.

From the twelve variables that had been ranked for the professions, images were calculated. From the students ranking the professions according to their first through ninth choices, statuses were calculated.

The results of the research were as follows:

1. Classificatory variables employed in the research (sex, IQ, perceived social class, and college plans) indicate no important differences in the image of professional occupations based on personal characteristics of the sample. It may be said that a mass of images exist and the entire sample perceives the professions virtually the same way.
2. The hypothesis as to the multidimensionality of professional occupations and the lack of relationship among the dimensions is supported.
3. Regarding the various images and statuses of the professions themselves, and in only the most general manner, two different groups of professions are in evidence, those whose ranking is of a polar type¹ and those whose ranking tends toward centrality.²
4. Finally, it should be emphasized that the polarity or centrality must be used in only the general way. For analytical purposes, and for understanding human behavior, images, and positions of the professions must be considered relevant to social situations and specific variables.³

¹Polar type refers to forces in any social aggregate (professions for example) which are sharply contrasted and which tend by their opposition to keep the aggregate in a steady state. The polar type may be either positive or negative. For McDonagh and Nelson negative types indicate low ranking and positive types, high ranking. Ibid., p. 14.

²Centrality refers to normal or average rank. Ibid., p. 14.

³Ibid., p. 14.

McDonagh, Wermlund, and Crowther did research that dealt with relative professional status as perceived by American and Swedish University students. Their hypotheses were as follows:

- (a) There are significant differences in the perceptions of the eight major professions: lawyer, physician, clergy, business executive, dentist, high school teacher, college professor, and engineer.
- (b) Relative status in these two countries is comparable even when several dimensions or aspects of status are considered.
- (c) When the statuses of a profession are perceived in terms of prestige, usefulness to society, required intellectual ability and degree to which members are criticized for deviancy from society's moral standards, there is no difference.¹

Two universities in the Western United States, one private and one public, were selected for the American sample. The Swedish sample was drawn from two universities corresponding with those from which the American sample was drawn. From these universities, a systematic random sample was taken and students from the respective universities were administered the questionnaire.

The questionnaire required the students to give some personal information such as age, sex, birthday, etc. They were also asked to rank the professions in terms of prestige, moral deviancy, intelligence, and usefulness to society. McDonagh, Wermlund and Crowther made the following conclusions:

¹Edward McDonagh, Sven Wermlund, and J. P. Crowther, "Relative Professional Status as Perceived by American and Swedish Students," Social Forces, XXXVIII (October, 1959), 66-67.

The conclusion was that university students in Sweden accord the university professor the highest rank in terms of status and required intellectual ability. American students ranked the medical doctor highest in prestige and agreed in rating the professor highest in intellectual ability. In both of the samples, the medical doctor ranked highest in prestige and most useful to society. The ministerial profession is viewed as more subject to criticism for moral deviancy.

American and Swedish university students agree that the grade school teacher ranks lowest in terms of prestige and intellectual ability. They also agree that the civil engineer is least likely to be criticized for moral deviancy. According to the American students, the business executive is considered the least useful to society and the intellectual ability demanded by him is only a little higher than that of the elementary school teacher. Swedish students, on the other hand, see lawyers as least useful and they accord to the dentist an intellectual ability greater than that only of the elementary school teacher.

The null hypothesis was rejected. According to the researchers, there are distinct differences between the relative statuses accorded the professions in the western nations when several aspects such as moral deviancy, intelligence, prestige, and intellectual ability are considered.

Numerous studies have shown that many students having great capabilities do not attain the level of education necessary to enter the professions in which they could probably function at a level to correspond with their ability. Ginzberg's interpretation of the findings of the Kinsey Report, Sexual Behavior in the Human Male, states that, "discrepancies between the level of aspiration and

¹Ibid., p. 68.

ability are closely related to social class values."¹

Ginzberg also suggested on the basis of Kinsey's findings that socially mobile individuals adopt the value system of the social class toward which they are aspiring. In this light, it could be observed that students rank highest those professions to which they aspire on the bases of how they perceive their own ability and opportunity.

Montesano and Geist, in their study on occupational differences between ninth and twelfth grade boys, hypothesized that younger boys would rely on simple stated interests in choice making, while older boys tend to be more influenced by their abilities. They, also, assumed that older boys, as compared to younger boys, are more aware of occupational requirements, duties, conditions of work, and opportunities and that they use these awarenesses in making vocational choices. Finally, as compared to younger boys, older boys consider a greater number of factors when making occupational choices.²

The conclusions drawn by Montesano and Geist in their research on differences in occupational choices between ninth and twelfth grade boys were:

In terms of the original two hypotheses, it can be stated that the older youngsters are expected to be less concerned about what they like, more concerned about conditions in the occupational world, so that in decision making older boys take account more of the factors

¹Eli Ginzberg, Values and Ideals of American Youth (New York: Columbia University Press, 1961), p. 426.

²Nicholas Montesano and Harold Geist, "Differences in Occupational Choice Between Ninth and Twelfth Grade Boys," Journal of Personnel and Guidance, XLIII (October, 1964), 150.

related to their choices, specifically their abilities, occupational requirements, conditions of work, and opportunities related to occupations.

In terms of the direction of the differential responses between the two sample groups, all of the differences noted in the two groups were in the direction predicted by the hypotheses or by the general theory of vocational development from which the hypotheses were drawn.¹

An agreement on the status of occupations in reference to the rank assigned to them by society is demonstrated in a study by Richard Centers. He asked, in a National Opinion Research Center Poll, a sample of American adults to place selected occupations into one of four classes--upper class, middle class, working class and lower class. The results indicate that occupations are ranked by the public as follows:

1. Upper class composed primarily of big business owners and executives, and secondarily of physicians, lawyers, and bankers.
2. Middle class composed of small businessmen and semiprofessionals.
3. Working class composed of and ranging from foremen and office workers down through unskilled laborers.
4. Lower class composed of unskilled workers and periodically unemployed or unemployable.²

In March, 1946, the National Opinion Research Center interviewed their regular national sample, plus a special sample of youth, on the

¹Ibid., p. 154.

²Richard Centers, "Social Class, Occupation and Imputed Belief," American Journal of Sociology, VII (May, 1953), 546.

subject of occupational prestige. The total number of respondents in the survey was 2950.¹

A list of eighty-eight occupations was rated by the respondents on a prestige scale giving values from one to six. The list of occupations was originally compiled on the basis of three criteria:

(1) that it should include no "antisocial" jobs; (2) that the occupations chosen should represent as large a proportion of the gainfully employed in the United States as possible; and (3) that the fullest practical range of prestige should be covered.²

The rankings were transformed into prestige scores in such a way as to yield a minimum score of 20 and a maximum of 100. The actual range was from 33 for "shoe-shiner" to 96 for "Supreme Court justice" and 93 for physician, the highest rated regular occupations. These scores form a prestige continuum which deals with at least some of the problems unsolved in other prestige studies of occupations. It already constitutes a method of occupational classification which, though neither complete nor definitive, is useful for many types of research.³

The relation between notions of social prestige, social contribution, and economic return of occupations was reported on by Anderson in 1927 and 1934. In the earlier study with college students

¹National Opinion Research Center, "National Opinion on Occupations," Public Opinion Quarterly, XI (March, 1946), 658.

²Ibid., p. 660.

³Ibid., p. 662.

who ranked twenty-five occupations by social contribution, the rankings were fairly fixed, and did not show differences due to personal interests.¹ In the later study, he reported the ranking again by students, of twenty-five occupations by social prestige, social contribution, and economic return. It was found that the students related social prestige more closely to the economic return attached to the occupations than they related social prestige to social contribution, or social contribution to economic return.²

Osgood and Stagner, in 1941, made an attempt to identify some of the qualities associated with occupational prestige. The subjects, psychology students, were asked first to rate a group of fifteen occupations according to the degree they thought high economic return, intellectual qualities, public notice, security, and six other characteristics to be commanded by them; secondly, to rank them with emphasis on the characteristics of typical members of the occupation from a list of ten traits; and finally, to rank them by general prestige. Their ratings of occupations in terms of their "hopefulness," "public notice," "financial return," "excitingness," and "pleasantness" were almost identical with judgments of their general prestige; even "freedom," "sociability," and "security" gave significant correlations,

¹W. A. Anderson, "The Occupational Attitudes and Choices of College Men," Social Forces, VI (December, 1927), 278.

²W. A. Anderson, "The Occupational Attitudes of College Men," Journal of Social Psychology, V (December, 1934), 435.

only "hours of work" showed no significant relation to prestige.¹

Simple ranking studies form the bulk of the research literature on occupational prestige, and though it may be claimed that the heavy reliance placed on this adaptable method of inquiry has deterred constructive work in this field, a quantity of information has been derived and deserves analysis.²

In summarizing the related literature in reference to its utility and applicability to this study, it may be stated that (1) many of the studies deal with ranking the professions by some scale or value; this method was used in the present study. Students were asked to rank the professions from their first to ninth choices, and (2) each study attempted to ascertain perceptions of professions or occupations by utilizing certain variables such as prestige, security, income, moral deviancy, usefulness to society, pleasantness, and numerous others. This was also done in the present study; twelve variables were used. In many cases only two, four or eight variables at the most were used in the other studies.

These factors in relation to the related literature have aided tremendously in interpreting statuses and images of professions.

¹C. E. Osgood and R. Stagner, "Analysis of a Prestige Frame of Reference by a Gradient Technique," Journal of Applied Psychology, III (June, 1941), 275-290.

²Nosow and Form, op. cit., p. 256.

CHAPTER II

EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS' PERCEPTIONS OF STATUSES

The purpose of this chapter is to present and interpret eighth and twelfth grade pupils' perceptions of statuses of selected professions by sex and grade. The pupils' ranking of the professions from their first through their ninth choices establishes the relative professional statuses of the selected profession.

The Ranking of Professions by Eighth and Twelfth Grade Pupils.--
Eighth grade pupils ranked the business executive as their first choice of profession; the clergy and dentist tied for the ninth position (See Table 1). The social worker occupies the position of centrality which means that one half of the rank-order positions are above it, and one half of the rank-order positions are below it. The engineer and physician also ranked in the upper third¹ of the rank-order scale.

The middle third² of the rank-order scale consists of the high school teacher, social worker, lawyer and college professor. The lawyer and college professor tied for the sixth position which is a

¹The upper third refers to positive polar types that indicate high rank which consists of rank-order positions, 1, 2, and 3.

²The middle third refers to central types that indicate average rank which consists of rank-order positions, 4, 5, and 6.

part of the middle third; therefore, both professions were included in the middle third; and the lower third¹ of the rank-order scale consists of dentist and clergy.

TABLE 1
RANKING OF PROFESSIONS BY EIGHTH AND
TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Business Executive	19	7.8	1	Engineer	39	15.9
2	Engineer	17	6.9	2	High School Teacher	38	15.5
3	Physician	10	4.1	3	Business Executive	36	14.6
4	High School Teacher	8	3.2	4	Social Worker	19	7.7
5	Social Worker	7	2.8	5	Physician	18	7.3
6.5	Lawyer	3	1.2	6	Lawyer	16	6.5
6.5	College Professor	3	1.2	7	College Professor	5	2.0
8.5	Dentist	2	.9	8	Dentist	2	.9
8.5	Clergy	2	.9	9	Clergy	1	.6
Total		71	29.0			174	71.0

¹The lower third refers to negative polar types that indicate low rank which consists of rank-order positions, 7, 8, and 9.

Twelfth grade pupils ranked the engineer as their first choice of profession. The position of centrality is held by the physician; the clergy is ranked as the twelfth grade pupils' last (9th) choice of profession.

The upper third of the rank-order scale consists of engineer, high school teacher, and business executive; the middle third consists of the profession of social worker, physician, and lawyer; with the college professor, dentist, and clergy ranking in the lower third of the rank-order scale.

Both eighth and twelfth grade pupils ranked the engineer and business executive high in status; both grades ranked the profession of dentist and clergy low in status. The physician held a position of centrality for twelfth grade pupils, it ranked third in status position for eighth grade pupils.

Occupations are ranked in terms of their importance to the community.¹ The fact that the professions of business executive and engineer were ranked high in status by both eighth and twelfth grade pupils is possibly due to the pupils' perceiving these professions as being more important to the community than are the other selected professions; the professions that ranked low in status--dentist and clergy for both grades are in part due to the fact that the pupils perceive of these professions as being less important to the community.

The profession of social worker was ranked in a position of centrality for both grades. In terms of its importance in the

¹Earl H. Bell and John Sirjamaki, op. cit., p. 439.

community, the social worker is considered as having average importance in the community. This is indicated by the rank of centrality or the average status position.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Male Pupils' Ranking of Professions.--

The eighth grade male pupils ranked the engineer highest in status with the business executive and physician ranking high or in the upper third of the rank-order scale (See Table 2). The position of centrality is held by four professions--social worker, lawyer, dentist, and clergy. These professions make up the middle third of the rank-order scale; the college professor and high school teacher ranked last, thus making up the lower third of the rank-order scale.

Twelfth grade male pupils ranked the engineer high in status with the high school teacher and business executive ranking in the upper third of the rank-order scale; the position of centrality is held by two professions--social worker and physician. These professions make up the middle third of the rank-order scale; the lower third consists of the college professor, dentist, and clergy (See Table 2).

In comparing the eighth grade's ranking of professions with twelfth grade's ranking of professions to ascertain relative statuses, it is revealed that both groups award the engineer the highest status position.

Both groups awarded the business executive a high status and the college professor a low status. The professions of social worker and lawyer are awarded a status of centrality.

TABLE 2

EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE MALE PUPILS'
RANKING OF PROFESSIONS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Engineer	17	40	1	Engineer	36	44
2	Business Executive	12	29	2	High School Teacher	12	15
3	Physician	3	7	3	Business Executive	11	13
5.5	Social Worker	2	5	4	Lawyer	7	8
5.5	Dentist	2	5	5.5	Social Worker	6	7
5.5	Clergy	2	5	5.5	Physician	6	7
5.5	Lawyer	2	5	7	College Professor	3	4
8.5	College Professor	1	2	8.5	Dentist	1	1
8.5	High School Teacher	1	2	8.5	Clergy	1	1
Total		42	100			83	100

Whereas the high school teacher is ranked high in status by twelfth grade males, it is ranked low in status by eighth grade males.

Twelfth grade pupils have reached the level of maturity which enables them to evaluate the roles, functions, and values of the high school teacher. In this evaluating process, they have direct contact

with the high school teacher and realize the importance of the teacher in their educational development. Eighth grade pupils have not reached this level of maturity and experience and thus are not able to evaluate properly the high school teacher's role. Consequently, they tend to perceive the high school teachers' status quite differently from that of twelfth grade pupils.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Female Pupils' Ranking of Professions.--

The eighth grade female pupils ranked the business executive, physician, and high school teacher high in status. These professions tied for the first position (See Table 3). The profession of college professor occupies the position of centrality; and the engineer, dentist, and clergy ranked last in status on the rank-order scale.

Twelfth grade female pupils ranked the high school teacher high in status, with the business executive and social worker also ranking in the upper third of the rank-order scale; the physician, lawyer, and engineer occupy the middle third positions; and, college professor, dentist, and clergy are awarded status positions in the lower third of the series of professions (See Table 3).

The professions of business executive and high school teacher are ranked high by both eighth and twelfth grade female pupils; also both groups awarded low status positions to the professions of dentist and clergy. The college professor ranks in a position of centrality for eighth grade female pupils, but ranks in a low position for twelfth grade female pupils. Twelfth grade pupils ranked the lawyer in a position of centrality; the college professor holds this position for eighth grade female pupils.

TABLE 3

EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE FEMALE PUPILS'
RANKING OF PROFESSIONS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent
2	Business Executive	7	24	1	High School Teacher	26	29
2	Physician	7	24	2	Business Executive	25	28
2	High School Teacher	7	24	3	Social Worker	13	14
4	Social Worker	5	17	4	Physician	12	13
5	College Professor	2	7	5	Lawyer	9	10
6	Lawyer	1	4	6	Engineer	3	3
8	Engineer	-	-	7	College Professor	2	2
8	Dentist	-	-	8	Dentist	1	1
8	Clergy	-	-	9	Clergy	-	-
Total		29	100			91	100

Neither group awarded any choices to the profession of clergy. Then too, no choices were received by engineer or dentist as ranked by eighth grade female pupils.

Generally, pupils are influenced by professions that appeal to them. This is because they think of themselves as one day entering

a certain occupation and their choices correspond closely with what they desire to become. The professions that are ranked high by them are those that appeal to them through societal orientations. Those they rank low are those that do not appeal to them.

B. R. Forer found an explanation of occupational choices largely in personality and emotional needs of the individual, often operating unconsciously:

Choice of a vocation is not primarily rational or logical, but is somewhat blind, impressive, emotional, an automatic process and is not always subject to practical and reasonable considerations.

Primary reasons for selecting a particular vocation are unconscious in the sense that when the individual is pressed to elaborate beyond the superficial rationalization of economic advantages and opportunity, he is forced to admit that he does not know; he simply has to build bridges or can't stand paper work. These activities have immediate appeal or distaste for him. What we are saying is that interests and references have unconscious roots. . . .¹

The primary orientation of a society determines the occupation to which it assigns highest status.² Even though male and female pupils are orientated by virtually the same societal forces, there are numerous professions that male pupils are more prone to enter than are female pupils prone to enter.

This is evidenced by the engineer ranking highest in status by both eighth and twelfth grade male pupils, as compared to business

¹B. R. Forer, "Personality Factors in Occupational Choices," Educational and Psychological Measurement (Autumn, 1953), 361.

²Ibid., p. 439.

executive and high school teacher ranking highest in status for eighth grade female pupils and for twelfth grade female pupils, respectively. It is interesting to note that the profession of business executive is ranked high in status by male and female pupils of both grades. This could probably indicate that, more and more, female pupils are entering professions that prior to now consisted almost entirely of male individuals; and that the orientation males receive, by a society holding businessmen and statesmen in high regard, influences their ranking of the business executive high in status.

The clergy and dentist were ranked low in status by eighth grade females, twelfth grade females, and twelfth grade males. The eighth grade male pupils awarded the clergy and dentist a position of centrality.

Throughout history, the profession of clergy was held in high esteem because it was considered to make up the group of the better trained and educated individuals within the society. Today, with the wide diversification of occupations, the profession of clergy is losing the stronghold that it once possessed. As a result, other professions are gaining the status that the clergy once held by reason that they too consist of well educated and highly specialized individuals.

Although the profession of dentist has not attained as high a status as the clergy has throughout history, the diversification of occupations has affected it also.

Eighth Grade Pupils' Ranking of Professions by Sex.--Forty per cent of the male eighth grade pupils ranked the engineer high in status;

four per cent ranked the high school teacher and college professor low in status. The professions of social worker, lawyer, dentist, and clergy ranked in the middle third of the rank-order scale which constitutes 20 per cent of the choices (See Table 4).

TABLE 4
EIGHTH GRADE PUPILS' RANKING OF PROFESSIONS BY SEX

Male				Female			
Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Engineer	17	40	2	Business Executive	7	24
2	Business Executive	12	29	2	Physician	7	24
3	Physician	3	7	2	High School Teacher	7	24
5.5	Social Worker	2	5	4	Social Worker	5	17
5.5	Lawyer	2	5	5	College Professor	2	7
5.5	Dentist	2	5	6	Lawyer	1	4
5.5	Clergy	2	5	8	Engineer	-	-
8.5	College Professor	1	2	8	Dentist	-	-
8.5	High School Teacher	1	2	8	Clergy	-	-
Total		42	100			29	100

Seventy-two per cent of the eighth grade female choices were awarded equally to three professions--business executive, physician, and high school teacher. These three professions are ranked in the top third position of the rank-order scale. Three professions were awarded no choices by the female eighth grade pupils and were ranked in the lowest status positions--dentist, engineer, and clergy. The lowest status positions for eighth grade male pupils consist of the high school teacher, college professor, and clergy. The profession of lawyer received only one choice from eighth grade female pupils, but is ranked in the middle third of the rank-order scale for both groups.

Twelfth Grade Pupils' Ranking of Professions by Sex.--Forty-four per cent of the twelfth grade male pupils ranked the engineer highest in status; two per cent ranked the dentist and clergy lowest in status. The position of centrality is held by the professions of lawyer, social worker, and physician. These professions were awarded only 22 per cent of the eighth grade male pupils' choices (See Table 5).

Twenty-nine per cent of the female twelfth grade pupils ranked the high school teacher high in status; the rank-order position of centrality is held by the lawyer. This ranking of the lawyer constitutes 10 per cent of the total twelfth grade pupils' choices. The profession of clergy ranked last with no choices being made for it.

The two sexes made two common choices--high school teacher and business executive ranked in the upper third. Below the top third position there is amazing similarity in choices by sex. The professions of dentist and clergy ranked lowest for both males and females; the

TABLE 5

TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS' RANKING OF PROFESSIONS BY SEX

Male				Female			
Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Engineer	36	44	1	High School Teacher	26	29
2	High School Teacher	12	15	2	Business Executive	25	28
3	Business Executive	11	13	3	Social Worker	13	14
4	Lawyer	7	8	4	Physician	12	13
5.5	Social Worker	6	7	5	Lawyer	9	10
5.5	Physician	6	7	6	Engineer	3	3
7	College Professor	3	4	7	College Professor	2	2
8.5	Dentist	1	1	8	Dentist	1	1
8.5	Clergy	1	1	9	Clergy	-	-
Total		83	100			91	100

physician and lawyer are ranked in the middle third by both sexes; and, both sexes award the seventh status position to the college professor.

Ranking of Professions by Male and Female Pupils.--Male pupils ranked the engineer high in status and the clergy and dentist were ranked low in status. The position of centrality is awarded to the profession of physician, lawyer, and social worker (See Table 6).

TABLE 6

RANKING OF PROFESSIONS BY SEX FOR TOTAL SAMPLE

Male				Female			
Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Pro- fession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Engineer	53	43	1	High School Teacher	33	27.5
2	Business Executive	23	19	2	Business Executive	32	26.7
3	High School Teacher	13	11	3	Physician	19	15.8
4.5	Physician	9	7	4	Social Worker	18	15.0
4.5	Lawyer	9	7	5	Lawyer	10	8.3
6	Social Worker	8	6	6	College Professor	4	3.3
7	College Professor	4	3	7	Engineer	3	2.5
8.5	Dentist	3	2	8	Dentist	1	.8
8.5	Clergy	3	2	9	Clergy	-	-
Total		125	100			120	100

The professions that ranked high in status and constitute the upper third of the rank-order scale are: engineer, business executive, and high school teacher; the professions that are ranked as average, or in a position of centrality, and constitute the middle third of the rank-order scale are physician, lawyer, and social worker; the lower third of the rank-order scale consists of the college professor,

dentist, and clergy. These professions received rank-order positions that indicate low status.

Female pupils ranked the high school teacher high in status and the clergy was ranked low in status. The position of centrality is awarded to the lawyer. The upper third of the rank-order scale consists of the professions of high school teacher, business executive, and physician; the middle third of the rank-order scale consists of the social worker, lawyer, and college professor; and, the lower third of the rank-order scale consists of the engineer, dentist, and clergy.

The professions of high school teacher and business executive are ranked high by both sexes. Although the engineer is ranked highest by male pupils, the profession is ranked low by female pupils; the dentist and clergy are ranked low by both groups.

The attempt to interpret the status positions of the professions as ranked by male and female pupils in a prior discussion which related status to the primary orientation of society applies here. The rank-order positions did not change to an observable degree when all males and all females were combined irrespective of grade.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Pupils' Occupational Choices.--No attempt was made in this study to determine how pupils would perceive of the statuses of professions in terms of their parents' occupation, or in terms of how the pupils' perceptions of statuses of professions would compare with the statuses of the occupations held by their parents. However, students were asked to list the occupation they plan to follow for their life's work (See Tables 7 and 8).

TABLE 7

EIGHTH GRADE PUPILS' OCCUPATIONAL CHOICES

Profession	Number
Architect	1
Band Director	1
Brick Mason	1
Business Executive	7
Carpenter	1
College Professor	1
Commercial Artist	1
Engineer	12
Lawyer	1
Nurse	8
Pathologist	1
Physician	4
Plasterer	1
Press Operator	1
Professional Football Player	1
Secretary	5
Singer	1
Social Worker	3
Teacher	6
Undecided	13
Total	71

Seven of the nine professions selected for this study were named by eighth and twelfth grade pupils as occupations they plan to follow for a life's work.

The total number of eighth grade pupils planning to follow one of the seven professions was 34 or 48 per cent; and the total number of twelfth grade pupils planning to follow one of the seven professions was 68 or 33 per cent.

The professions that were named--business executive, dentist, engineer, lawyer, physician, college professor, social worker, and

high school teacher--ranked high in terms of status for both grades. Even though the profession of dentist is named as an occupation the pupils plan to follow for life's work, it was not ranked high in status by either eighth or twelfth grade pupils.

TABLE 8
TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS' OCCUPATIONAL CHOICES

Profession	Number	Profession	Number
Accountant	1	Mortician	1
Actor	1	Musician	1
Air Line Hostess	2	Nurse	13
Armed Service	4	Obstetrician	1
Beautician	3	Pediatrician	1
Biologist	1	Physician	4
Brick Mason	1	Pilot	2
Business Executive	6	Policeman	1
Carpenter	1	Postal Clerk	3
Coach	2	Psychiatrist	1
Dancer	2	Professional Athlete	2
Dentist	1	Psychologist	2
Designer	2	Television Repairman	1
Electronic	1	Railroad Worker	1
Engineer	12	Receptionist	2
Fireman	1	Chemist	1
Game Warden	1	Scientist	1
Interior Decorator	2	Seamstress	1
Journalist	2	Secretary	8
Key Puncher	1	Social Worker	8
Lawyer	6	Teacher	30
Linguist	1	Welder	3
Mechanic	2	Women's Army Corp	1
Mathematician	2	Undecided	25
Model	1		
Total = 174	59		115

The occupational aspirations of pupils often correspond with the rank they award the respective occupation. The occupations they

aspire to follow for life's work are generally the ones they award the highest status; and, the ones they do not aspire to follow for their life's work are the ones they award a low status. Therefore, the low rank awarded to the dentist was due probably to the scarcity of pupils desiring to enter the dental profession.

There were 13 or 17 per cent of the eighth grade pupils who were undecided about the occupation they plan to follow as compared to 25 or 15 per cent of the twelfth grade pupils who were undecided about the occupation they plan to follow for their life's work.

The small difference in undecided responses could be due to the fact that twelfth grade pupils are nearer to making occupational decisions than are eighth grade pupils. Also, the process of choice making is done with more realistic assessment of the probability of achievement. The act of making a realistic choice of an occupation for life's work could be, in some cases, difficult for twelfth grade pupils to make.

In reference to how pupils attempt to make decisions about occupations, Robert Hoppock states the following:

....the process of occupational decision making can be analyzed in terms of three periods--fantasy, tentative and realistic choices. In the fantasy period the youngster thinks about an occupation in terms of his wish to be an adult. He cannot assess his capacities or the opportunities and limitations of reality. He believes that he can be whatever he wants to be.

The tentative period is characterized by the individual's recognition of the problem of deciding on a future occupation, whereas during the realistic period, the translation is so heavily weighted by

reality considerations that the choice is difficult. The individual recognizes that he must work out a compromise between what he wants and the opportunities which are available to him.¹

¹Robert Hoppock, Occupational Information: Where to Get It and How to Use It in Counseling and in Teaching (New York: McGraw-Hill Company, Inc., 1963), p. 88.

CHAPTER III

EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS' PERCEPTION OF IMAGES

The purpose of this chapter is to present and interpret eighth and twelfth grade pupils' perception of images of selected professions. The pupils' ranking of each selected profession on twelve variables establishes their images of the selected professions.

General Appearance Ranking of the Professions

The term general appearance as used in this study refers to the overall picture presented to the public by the profession, in and out of the course of duty. The matter of bodily appearance, self-control, individual uniqueness, reputation, character, temperament, and manner of dress are prime factors in determining general appearance.

Eighth Grade Images.--The business executive is ranked highest in terms of general appearance by eighth grade pupils (See Table 9). This profession usually impresses pupils because they perceive the individual that makes up the profession as generally well dressed, situated in impressive offices and buildings, and possessing high qualities and attributes. These are things, along with numerous other important factors, that pupils unconsciously desire for themselves. Therefore, they tend to rank high those occupations to which they are aspiring, and tend to rank low those occupations to which they do not aspire.

TABLE 9

GENERAL APPEARANCE RANKING OF THE PROFESSIONS
EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Business Executive	29	40.9	1	Physician	36	20.7
2	Lawyer	10	14.0	2	Business Executive	30	17.2
3	Physician	9	12.6	3	College Professor	28	16.0
4	College Professor	5	7.0	4	High School Teacher	25	14.3
6	Engineer	4	5.7	5	Clergy	20	11.4
6	Social Worker	4	5.7	6	Dentist	11	6.2
6	High School Teacher	4	5.7	7	Lawyer	10	5.7
8.5	Clergy	3	4.2	8	Social Worker	9	5.1
8.5	Dentist	3	4.2	9	Engineer	5	2.8
Total		71	100			174	100

The dentist and clergy were ranked lowest in terms of general appearance by eighth grade pupils; and the position of centrality is awarded to the profession of college professor. The physician and lawyer ranked in the upper third of the rank-order scale; the social worker, engineer, and high school teacher ranked in the middle third

of the rank-order scale; with the professions of clergy and dentist ranking in the lower third.

Twelfth Grade Images.--Physician is ranked highest in terms of general appearance by twelfth grade pupils (See Table 9). The engineer is ranked lowest on this variable due probably to confusion with train engineer; and, the position of centrality is awarded to the clergy.

Business executive, college professor, and physician are ranked in the upper third of the series of professions; high school teacher, dentist, and clergy rank in the middle third, with lower third rankings being held by the profession of lawyer, social worker, and engineer.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.--Both eighth and twelfth grade pupils rank the profession of physician and business executive high in terms of the variable--general appearance. The college professor is well thought of by both groups on this variable. The social worker and engineer are ranked in the middle third for eighth grade pupils, and in the lower third for twelfth grade pupils. The clergy and dentist are ranked average by twelfth grade pupils, but they are ranked lowest by eighth grade pupils.

The difference in the rank awarded the professions by eighth and twelfth grade pupils is due in part to both groups' interpretation of the variable--general appearance. It is felt that both groups considered only the phase of general appearance that dealt with the manner of dress.

Generally, twelfth grade pupils are aware of a greater number of occupations than are eighth grade pupils. In perceiving the

professions in terms of dress, both grades not only ranked them with each of the listed professions, but also with all the professions they knew about. In this way, the professions were being ranked unconsciously, by the pupils, with all of the occupations known to them.

It is possible that on a scale consisting of more than nine professions, the professions that were ranked low would be ranked lower. Mental pictures of dress are often more lasting than are mental pictures that deal with intangible qualities. This is why the pupils could easily draw on their knowledge of professions in relation to the manner of dress and relate more professions than were presented.

Personality Ranking of the Professions

"Personality includes all the traits and characteristics which make up a person: his physical traits, like eye color and height; his overt habits such as laziness, baseball playing, smoking; his attitudes, like attraction to certain types of women or prejudice against certain people; his mentality, his conception of himself; and any or all other things about him which can be observed by him or another person. One may formally define personality as the sum and organization of the observed or observable characteristics of a person."¹

Eighth Grade Images.--Eighth grade pupils awarded the social worker the highest image on the variable of personality (See Table 10). They awarded the position of centrality to the clergy, lawyer, physician, and college professor; and the lowest position to the

¹John Cuber, Sociology: A Synopsis of Principles (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1955), p. 191.

dentist. The low rank of dentist could be attributed to the fear that young children have for dentists resulting from visits to the dentist's office. This is, in part, a latent fear in the child's mind.

TABLE 10
PERSONALITY RANKING OF THE PROFESSIONS BY
EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Social Worker	15	21.1	1	Clergy	33	18.9
2	Business Executive	13	18.3	3	College Professor	20	11.5
3	High School Teacher	12	16.9	3	Social Worker	20	11.5
4	Clergy	9	12.6	3	High School Teacher	20	11.5
6	Lawyer	6	8.5	5	Lawyer	19	11.5
6	Physician	6	8.5	6.5	Dentist	18	10.9
6	College Professor	6	8.5	6.5	Physician	18	10.9
8	Engineer	4	5.6	8	Business Executive	16	9.1
9	Dentist	-	-	9	Engineer	10	5.8
Total		71	100			174	100

Social worker, business executive, and high school teacher are ranked in the upper third position on the variable of personality;

lawyer, clergy, physician, and college professor ranked in the middle third; and, engineer and dentist ranked in the lower third of the rank-order scale.

Twelfth Grade Images.--Twelfth grade pupils award the clergy the highest image on the variable of personality. They award the position of centrality to the lawyer, and the lowest position to the engineer.

College professor, high school teacher, social worker, and clergy ranked in the upper third category; lawyer, dentist and physician ranked in the middle third; and, the business executive and engineer ranked in the lower third.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.--Both grades awarded a high rank-order position to the profession of social worker. This is somewhat common due to the idea that this profession consists of individuals who are more in contact with people than are members of other professions. Social work is a personal rather than an impersonal occupation and pupils tend to award the profession a high image.

Engineer is ranked low in terms of personality for both grades. This is possibly due to the fact that many pupils are not knowledgeable about the engineering profession. The physician and lawyer are the common selection for both groups in the middle third for the variable of personality.

Intelligence Ranking of the Professions

There are many yardsticks utilized to measure a person's intelligence. In this study, we are avoiding such facets of

intelligence as talent, genius, greatness, and distinction. The effort here is to define the profession in terms of competency in the respective field with the knowledge that an individual must undergo a great deal of preliminary learning before he is considered as intelligent.

Eighth Grade Images.--The college professor is ranked by eighth grade pupils as being most competent in his respective field of endeavor (See Table 11). This could mean that pupils interpret their affiliation with institutions of higher learning as being a prerequisite of intelligence; then again, most eighth grade pupils who are desirous of a college education hold their perspective teachers in high esteem.

The high school teacher is ranked as average in intelligence, holding the position of centrality; the dentist is ranked lowest in intelligence holding the ninth position.

The business executive, physician, and lawyer tied for the second position which constitutes part of the upper third rank-order positions. The middle third ranks are given to the high school teacher and social worker with engineer, clergy and dentist comprising the lower third of the rank-order scale.

Twelfth Grade Images.--The physician is ranked by twelfth grade pupils as the most intelligent (See Table 11). Wilkinson states the possible explanation of the high rank awarded the physician by twelfth grade pupils:

The doctor is held in high esteem for several reasons. He impresses people by his long educational and technical training--a training in which

he himself takes much pride and which gives him a feeling of self-assurance and competency. Being highly conscious of his profession and its esteem in the eyes of others, he acquires an exaggerated dignity and reserve.¹

TABLE 11
INTELLIGENCE RANKING OF THE PROFESSIONS BY
EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Number	Percent	Rank	Profession	Number	Percent
1	College Professor	29	40.9	1	Physician	43	24.7
3	Business Executive	8	11.2	2	Business Executive	23	13.3
3	Physician	8	11.2	3.5	Dentist	21	12.0
3	Lawyer	8	11.2	3.5	Engineer	21	12.0
5	High School Teacher	7	9.8	5	Lawyer	20	11.5
6	Social Worker	6	8.6	6	College Professor	18	10.4
7	Engineer	4	5.7	7.5	Social Worker	10	5.8
8	Clergy	1	1.4	7.5	Clergy	10	5.8
9	Dentist	-	-	9	High School Teacher	8	4.5
Total		71	100			174	100

¹F. Wilkinson, "Social Distance Between Occupations," Sociology and Social Research, XIII (October, 1929), 237.

High school teacher is ranked as least intelligent by twelfth grade pupils. This is consistent with W. S. Elbree's conception of the American teacher. He states:

The inferior status of the American teacher is . . . due to his inferior training. In terms of educational and professional qualifications, the teacher compares poorly with people in other professions. The professional standards of the teaching profession are seldom as rigorous as those of other well known professions, and the licensing of teachers in most states leaves much to be desired although both teacher education and licensing standards are generally improving.¹

The lawyer is awarded a position of centrality which means that he is considered to be of average intelligence. The business executive, dentist, and engineer are ranked in the upper third of the rank-order scale; the college professor and lawyer rank in the middle third with the clergy, social worker, and high school teacher ranking in the lower third.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.--Whereas the dentist and engineer are ranked high in terms of intelligence by the twelfth grade pupils, they are ranked low by eighth grade pupils. Both grades awarded the physician a high image on the variable of intelligence, and both grades awarded a low image on the variable of intelligence to the profession of clergy.

Honesty Rankings of the Professions

In most cases, pupils would not be able to evaluate or rank a profession in terms of honesty if factors such as fairness, trust-

¹W. S. Elbree, The American Teacher (New York: American Book Company, 1939), p. 307.

worthiness, or straight forwardness were considered. This is due mainly to the fact that they tend to make choices in comprehensive terms and because they do not deal with the respective professions enough to appraise their fairness, trustworthiness, or truthfulness.

Of course, some twelfth grade pupils could rank the professions on these bases but in order to maintain a degree of reliability, both grades were given the same definition. The definition of honesty used in this study is the ability to refrain from lying, cheating or stealing. In this way, both groups could operate from the same frame of reference.

Eighth Grade Images.--Eighth grade pupils perceive the physician as the profession most likely to refrain from lying, cheating, and stealing (See Table 12). Physicians are dominated by a strict code. If known violations of this code are evidenced, the physician could easily be dismissed from the profession. This is one reason why the profession is ranked highest in terms of the image of honesty by eighth grade pupils. They might not be aware of the code, but they are aware of the physician's duties and obligations to the persons they serve.

The profession of lawyer ranked lowest and is perceived to be the least likely to refrain from cheating, lying, and stealing. The dexterity with which lawyers use their ability to win cases for their clients is often misconstrued by eighth grade pupils.

In terms of honesty, the engineer is considered to be average. The college professor and high school teacher also ranked in the upper third of the variable--honesty; the dentist, engineer, and clergy are ranked in the middle third; the business executive, lawyer, and

social worker ranked in the lower third.

TABLE 12

HONESTY RANKINGS OF THE PROFESSIONS BY
EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Physician	24	33.7	1	Dentist	42	24.1
2	College Professor	13	18.4	2	Physician	32	18.3
3	High School Teacher	10	14.0	3.5	College Professor	20	11.5
4	Dentist	7	9.9	3.5	High School Teacher	20	11.5
5	Engineer	6	8.6	5	Social Worker	18	10.3
6	Clergy	4	5.6	6	Engineer	16	9.3
7.5	Business Executive	3	4.2	7	Lawyer	13	7.5
7.5	Social Worker	3	4.2	8	Business Executive	7	4.0
9	Lawyer	1	1.4	9	Clergy	6	3.5
Total		71	100			174	100

Twelfth Grade Images.--The dentist ranked, for twelfth grade pupils, as most likely to refrain from cheating, lying, and stealing. This is a medical profession whose behavior is also governed by a strict code. The profession of clergy is ranked as least likely to

refrain from lying, cheating, and stealing.

The social worker is perceived as being average in honesty. The physician, college professor, dentist, and high school teacher rank in the upper third of the variable of honesty; engineer and social worker are in the middle third; the lawyer, business executive, and clergy are in the lower third.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.--Eighth and twelfth grade pupils ranked the physician, college professor, and high school teacher high in terms of the variable--honesty; the business executive and lawyer ranked low for both grades. Clergy is ranked last for twelfth grade pupils but is ranked average by eighth grade pupils.

Societal as well as parental influences play an important role in determining whether pupils will perceive a profession favorably, unfavorably, or in an indifferent manner.

The rank received by the clergy for the variable of honesty is not favorable particularly because this profession supposedly consists of persons whose role involves being a carrier of truth, and being one who exemplifies behavior of the highest quality.

Since the profession was ranked low by twelfth grade pupils, it indicates that the influence of society and of parents on their perceptions was more unfavorable than favorable. The eighth grade pupils' ranking the clergy as average indicates that they have been subjected to these influences only to the extent that their perceptions have not been influenced either favorably or unfavorably toward the profession. Therefore, average rank is awarded to the clergy.

Both grades ranked the business executive and lawyer low on the rank-order scale for honesty because the roles of these professions were unfavorably interpreted by the pupils due probably again to influences of the society and of the parents.

Prestige Ranking of the Professions

"The hundreds of occupations in our society are roughly graded in a prestige hierarchy and within each business or profession there is also a similar grading. In our type of society, social position or class standing is linked with the work in which one is engaged, and with one's ranking within the occupation.

It is upon this knowledge that we formulate our definition of prestige. This is to say that prestige means the power to command a high standing, admiration, esteem, reputation, or distinction based on achievement."¹ Our attempt here was to ascertain from the pupils what profession, in their opinion, has the highest standing in the community.

Eighth Grade Images.--The profession of physician has the highest standing in the community as perceived by eighth grade pupils. The profession of dentist is awarded the lowest standing in the community with the profession of high school teacher and lawyer holding the central standing in the community (See Table 13).

The upper third rankings are held by the physician, business executive, and college professor; middle third rankings are held by

¹Alfred R. Lindesmith and Anselm L. Strauss, Social Psychology (New York: Dryden Press, 1959), p. 588.

the professions of clergy, high school teacher, and lawyer. The lower third consists of engineer, social worker, and dentist.

TABLE 13
PRESTIGE RANKING OF THE PROFESSIONS BY
EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Physician	17	23.6	1	Business Executive	28	16.0
2	Business Executive	15	21.1	2	College Professor	27	15.6
3	College Professor	10	14.0	3	Lawyer	26	14.9
4	Clergy	8	11.3	4	Social Worker	24	13.7
5.5	High School Teacher	6	8.6	5	Clergy	23	13.2
5.5	Lawyer	6	8.6	6	High School Teacher	20	11.5
7.5	Engineer	4	5.7	7.5	Dentist	10	5.8
7.5	Social Worker	4	5.7	7.5	Physician	10	5.8
9	Dentist	1	1.4	9	Engineer	6	3.5
Total		71	100			174	100

Twelfth Grade Images.--Twelfth grade pupils perceive the business executive as having the highest standing in the community;

the engineer has the lowest standing. The position of centrality is awarded to the clergy which means average standing in the community. Other upper third rankings are awarded to college professor, business executive, and lawyer; middle third rankings were awarded to the social worker, clergy and high school teacher with the dentist, physician, and engineer ranking in the lower third prestige positions.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.--College professor and business executive ranked high for both grades; dentist and engineer ranked low for each grade. Physician was ranked low by twelfth grade pupils but was ranked highest by eighth grade pupils.

Eighth grade pupils awarded the physician highest prestige because, to them, the physician appears to be the ultimate in professions. They are just emerging from the fantasy into the tentative period and still tend to glamorize this particular profession. Twelfth grade pupils, on the other hand, are more realistic in their perceptions of a physician.

Power Ranking of the Professions

"From the very first job, men are in position to be ordered and commanded, and every step upward in the hierarchy gives the individual greater authority to give orders to others. The authority may include matters as final as sending a man to his death and as trivial as expecting and receiving deference. Power is not just a matter of manipulating people for selfish ends; it is a necessary factor in societal action. It is for this reason that men are pledged and accorded prestige on the basis of their efficiency in the exercise

of power and leadership."¹

Power, as defined in this study, means the ability to exercise authority and leadership in an effort to manipulate people unselfishly. Pupils were asked, then, what profession exercised authority and leadership in handling people for unselfish reasons?

Eighth Grade Images.--Eighth grade pupils felt that the business executive exercised authority and leadership in handling people more so than did any of the other professions. This was due probably to the pupils perceiving the business executive as "boss" (See Table 14). The profession of dentist is ranked lowest in power.

The professions of physician, social worker and high school teacher ranked as average in the middle third of the variable power; lawyer, business executive, engineer, and clergy ranked in the upper third with college professor and dentist ranking in the lower third for the variable of power.

Twelfth Grade Images.--The clergy ranked, for twelfth grade pupils, as having the greatest ability to exercise authority and leadership; the engineer ranked lowest with the lawyer ranking as average. Upper third ranks were given also to college professor and social worker; middle third rankings were given to lawyer, and physician; high school teacher, business executive, and engineer ranked in the lower third.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.--Business executive and engineer are ranked high by eighth grade pupils but are ranked, in

¹Ibid., p. 589.

terms of power, low by twelfth grade pupils. The clergy is ranked high by each group.

TABLE 14
POWER RANKING OF THE PROFESSIONS BY
EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Business Executive	22	30.6	1	Clergy	35	20.1
2	Lawyer	16	22.5	2	College Professor	34	19.5
3.5	Engineer	11	15.7	3	Social Worker	27	15.5
3.5	Clergy	11	15.7	4	Dentist	25	14.3
6	Physician	3	4.2	5	Lawyer	13	7.5
6	Social Worker	3	4.2	6	Physician	11	6.3
6	High School Teacher	3	4.2	7.5	High School Teacher	10	5.8
8	College Professor	2	2.8	7.5	Business Executive	10	5.8
9	Dentist	-	-	9	Engineer	9	5.2
Total		71	100			174	100

The realities of status and power in Negro society may tend to serve as the frame of reference for twelfth grade pupils and the nature of the broader society would seem to influence eighth grade

pupils' perceptions.

Security Ranking of the Professions

"In some occupations there is considerable promise of eminence and personal security; at least, after the starter has made a beginning or is 'in.' These occupations may be recognized generally by their clear-cut ranks, fairly automatic promotions and steady increments of salary and tenure."¹

"Even relatively stable occupational structures . . . may lose stability through contraction or rapid expansion; however, when rapid expansion occurs, a new kind of recruit floods in, competition may become more severe, and the old hierarchies of payment, seniority and promotion are upset."²

Freedom from worry is the general definition of security used in this study. Security then refers to freedom from worry with regard to salary, seniority, and promotion.

Eighth Grade Images.--Eighth grade pupils perceive the business executive as least likely to worry about salary, seniority, and promotion (See Table 15). The dentist is ranked as most likely to worry about salary, seniority, and promotion with the clergy possessing average worries.

The professions of physician and high school teacher are also ranked in the upper third of the variable security; the middle third

¹Ibid., p. 590.

²Ibid., p. 591.

ranking is awarded to the college professor, and clergy; with lawyer, engineer, social worker, and dentist ranking in the lower third of the variable.

TABLE 15

SECURITY RANKING OF THE PROFESSIONS BY
EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Business Executive	17	23.9	1	College Professor	31	17.8
2	Physician	15	21.1	2	High School Teacher	30	17.2
3	High School Teacher	9	12.6	3	Engineer	29	16.7
4	College Professor	7	9.9	4.5	Social Worker	20	11.5
5	Clergy	6	8.5	4.5	Clergy	20	11.5
7	Lawyer	5	7.0	6	Lawyer	13	7.5
7	Engineer	5	7.0	7.5	Dentist	11	6.3
7	Social Worker	5	7.0	7.5	Physician	11	6.3
9	Dentist	2	2.8	9	Business Executive	9	5.2
Total		71	100			174	100

Twelfth Grade Images.--Twelfth grade pupils perceive the college professor as most free of worry (See Table 15). The business executive

is more likely to worry than are any of the other professions. Social worker and clergy tied for the average positions.

The upper third of the variable of security consists of the college professor, high school teacher, and engineer; the middle third consists of the lawyer, social worker, and clergy; the lower third positions consist of dentist, physician, and business executive.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.--Whereas the business executive ranked highest by eighth grade pupils, he was ranked lowest by twelfth grade pupils; the college professor and high school teacher are ranked high in the variable of security for both groups; the professions of clergy and lawyer tend toward average for both groups.

The role played by the persons in the teaching profession is often misleading to Negro pupils. They perceive the teacher as being secure and free from worry because of the role the teacher plays in the eyes of the public. In actuality, the role is one of conformity to the mores of society. Since the pupils is not aware of this conformity, he tends to perceive the behavior as a natural manner of the teacher.

Elsbree states in this connection that:

The teacher's position is one of subservience and conformity. Most of the regulations by means of which his attitudes and behavior are controlled are designed to effect his conformity with the mores of the community and the prejudices of local school boards, principals, superintendents, and parents. Where these prejudices conflice, the teacher must do his best to live in accordance

with them without making his own attitudes and ideas known.¹

Eighth grade pupils perceive the image of business executive as being high in terms of security. This perception could be due to their inability to view his responsibilities accurately. On the other hand, twelfth grade pupils tend to be more aware of the small business executive's tenuous existence.

Income Ranking of the Professions

There are many diverse means of defining income. It may apply to money received for renting property, proceeds received from a business, profits of commerce, interests on loans or mere "take home pay." To simplify the matter for the eighth and twelfth grade pupils, we chose to define income according to W. F. Ogburn. Income is defined as money periodically received for labor services that the recipient is free to spend.² These services include the specific work that is common to the particular profession.

Eighth Grade Images.--The physician ranked highest for eighth grade pupils on the variable of income (See Table 16). The clergy and social worker ranked lowest for this variable. Centrality rankings were awarded to the professions of lawyer and college professor. The business executive, physician, engineer, and dentist ranked in the upper third; the high school teacher, social worker and clergy ranked in

¹Elsbree, op. cit., p. 308.

²William F. Ogburn, "Technology and the Standard of Living in the United States," American Journal of Sociology, XL (January, 1955), 383.

the lower third of the rank-order scale.

TABLE 16
INCOME RANKING OF THE PROFESSIONS BY
EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Physician	15	21.1	1	Physician	47	27.2
2	Business Executive	14	19.8	2	Lawyer	27	15.6
3.5	Engineer	10	14.0	3	Business Executive	26	14.9
3.5	Dentist	10	14.0	4	Dentist	23	13.2
5.5	Lawyer	6	8.5	5	Engineer	21	12.0
5.5	College Professor	6	8.5	6	College Professor	10	5.8
7	High School Teacher	4	5.7	7	High School Teacher	8	4.5
8.5	Social Worker	3	4.2	8	Social Worker	7	4.0
8.5	Clergy	3	4.2	9	Clergy	5	2.8
Total		71	100			174	100

Twelfth Grade Images.--Twelfth grade pupils ranked the physician highest in the variable of income; the clergy ranked lowest; the position of centrality is awarded to the engineer. Upper third rankings are found for physician, lawyer, and business executive; middle third rankings are found for dentist, engineer, and college

professor with high school teacher, clergy, and social worker ranking in the lower third of the rank-order scale.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.--It is interesting to note that six occupations occupy the same rank-order position for both grades. These professions were college professor, high school teacher, social worker, clergy, physician and dentist. The physician was awarded the highest rank for both grades.

Income plays an important role in pupils' occupational choices. An observation made by Montesano and Geist in a study dealing with occupational choices of ninth and twelfth grade boys is as follows:

Anticipated monetary rewards are most often mentioned factors of occupation but prestige and status are mentioned almost as often as monetary reward.¹

Thus, income by professions seems to be perceived realistically by both grades.

Community Activity Ranking of the Professions

The clergy is ranked highest by both groups in terms of community activity. This refers to time set aside by members of the profession to participate in community functions that are not a part of occupational duty.

Eighth Grade Images.--The profession of clergy is ranked highest by eighth grade pupils in terms of the variable--community activity (See Table 17). The business executive is ranked lowest with college professor and physician sharing the position of centrality.

¹Montesano and Geist, op. cit., p. 154.

TABLE 17

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY RANKING OF THE PROFESSIONS
BY EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Clergy	24	33.7	1	Clergy	40	22.9
2	High School Teacher	11	15.7	2	College Professor	38	21.8
3	Social Worker	9	12.5	3	High School Teacher	28	16.0
4.5	College Professor	7	9.9	4	Social Worker	25	14.5
4.5	Physician	7	9.9	5	Physician	20	11.5
6	Dentist	6	8.5	6	Dentist	19	10.9
7.5	Engineer	3	4.2	7	Business Executive	12	6.8
7.5	Lawyer	3	4.2	8.5	Engineer	5	2.8
9	Business Executive	3	4.2	8.5	Lawyer	5	2.8
Total		71	100			174	100

Upper third rankings are found also for high school teacher and social worker; middle third ranking is given for college professor, dentist, and physician with engineer, lawyer and business executive ranking in the lower third of the rank-order scale.

Twelfth Grade Images.--Twelfth grade pupils award the clergy the highest rank in terms of the variable of community activity. The

lawyer and engineer are ranked lowest with the physician ranking as average in community activity.

Upper third rankings are found for clergy, college professor and high school teacher; middle third rankings are found for social worker, physician, and dentist; lower third ranks consist of business executive, engineer and lawyer.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.--Both grades awarded the clergy the highest rank in terms of the variable of community activity. Negro pupils can observe this profession more closely than they can observe any of the other professions. There are many church and civic activities in which clergymen are involved. Because pupils know about these activities, they tend to award the clergy a higher status than the professions whose activities in the community are not so widely known.

Both grades rank the high school teacher high; both grades award the lawyer, business executive, and engineer low rank-order positions.

Individual Aid Ranking of the Professions

Personal services rendered to individuals, special favors, and considerations are components of individual aid. Here, we are attempting to determine, on the bases of the pupils' responses, which profession is likely to extend special favors or make special consideration to individuals.

Eighth Grade Images.--Eighth grade pupils ranked the social worker highest in terms of the variable individual aid (See Table 18).

Pupils probably interpreted their personal services as special favors and considerations when in reality they are functional roles of the social worker.

TABLE 18

INDIVIDUAL AID RANKING OF THE PROFESSIONS
BY EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Social Worker	19	26.8	1.5	Physician	40	22.9
2	Physician	17	23.9	1.5	Social Worker	40	22.9
3	High School Teacher	11	15.7	3.5	Clergy	20	11.5
4	Clergy	7	9.8	3.5	Dentist	20	11.5
5.5	College Professor	5	7.0	5	High School Teacher	16	9.3
5.5	Lawyer	5	7.0	6	Business Executive	13	7.5
7.5	Business Executive	3	4.2	7	Lawyer	9	5.2
7.5	Engineer	3	4.2	8.5	College Professor	8	4.6
9	Dentist	1	1.4	8.5	Engineer	8	4.6
Total		71	100			174	100

The dentist is ranked lowest; the college professor and lawyer hold the average position. Upper third rankings are awarded to the social worker, physician, and high school teacher; middle third rankings were awarded to the college professor and lawyer; with the business executive, engineer, and dentist ranking in the lower third of the rank-order scale.

Twelfth Grade Images.--The physician and social worker ranked highest in terms of the variable--individual aid; the high school teacher received the rank of centrality; with the engineer and college professor ranking lowest on the variable.

The upper third rank-order positions were awarded to the physician, social worker, clergy, and dentist; middle third rankings were awarded to the high school teacher and business executive; the lawyer, college professor and engineer were awarded lower third ranks.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.--Both groups ranked the professions of physician and social worker as high in terms of individual aid; engineer is ranked low by both groups. There are few basic differences in the images held by the two groups. The image of the dentist is the exception. Eighth grade pupils idealize the dentist only as one who is concerned with some phase of oral hygiene. They cannot project his role any further than his office. On the other hand, twelfth grade pupils tend to realistically view the dental profession. In this viewing, they can project his role further than his office, and further than just being involved with oral hygiene.

Altruism Ranking of the Professions

Altruism, as defined on the questionnaire, refers to sacrificing for others. This is also the definition used by Nelson and McDonagh in their study.

Eighth Grade Images.--The social worker tends to be most likely to make sacrifices for others; the college professor is ranked by eighth grade pupils as least likely to sacrifice for others. The position of centrality is held by the profession of dentist. Eighth grade pupils also ranked the physician and high school teacher in the upper third of the rank-order scale; the clergy, dentist, and business executive are ranked in the middle third of the rank-order scale, with engineer, lawyer and college professor ranking in the lower third (See Table 19).

Twelfth Grade Images.--Twelfth grade pupils ranked the social worker as most likely to make sacrifices for others; the lawyer is ranked as least likely to sacrifice for others. The position of centrality is held by the profession of dentist.

Physician, college professor, and social worker are ranked in the upper third on the variable; clergy, dentist, high school teacher, and business executive ranked in the middle third; engineer and lawyer ranked in the lower third of the rank-order scale.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.--For both grades, social worker and physician are first and second choices. Oddly enough, the fourth and fifth rank-order positions for both grades are held by the professions of dentist and clergy. There is also similarity in the ranking

of the professions of business executive, engineer, and lawyer. Both grades probably perceive these professions as being ones in which sacrificing for others is not as characteristic as in other professions.

TABLE 19

ALTRUISM RANKING OF THE PROFESSIONS BY
EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Social Worker	20	28.1	1	Social Worker	38	21.9
2	Physician	16	22.5	2	Physician	32	18.4
3	High School Teacher	11	15.7	3	College Professor	21	12.0
4	Clergy	9	12.6	4	Clergy	18	10.3
5	Dentist	5	7.0	5	Dentist	17	9.8
6	Business Executive	4	5.7	6.5	High School Teacher	13	7.5
7.5	Engineer	3	4.2	6.5	Business Executive	13	7.5
7.5	Lawyer	3	4.2	8	Engineer	12	6.8
9	College Professor	-	-	9	Lawyer	10	5.8
Total		71	100			174	100

General Value to the Community Ranking of the Professions

"A community may be viewed as a permanent group of persons, occupying a common area, interacting in both institutional and non-institutional roles, and having a sense of identification with the entity (that is, the community) that arises from the interaction."¹

We are concerned here with the general role the professional person plays in respect to these institutional and non-institutional roles.

Eighth Grade Images.--Eighth grade pupils perceive the image of social worker as being the highest in general value to the community due probably to the services rendered to many people by individuals in the profession. The profession of lawyer has an average general value to the community with the clergy having the lowest general value to the community (See Table 20).

High school teacher, physician, clergy, and social worker ranked in the upper third of the rank-order scale; middle third ranks are awarded to the lawyer, business executive, and dentist; lower third ranks are awarded to the engineer and college professor.

Twelfth Grade Images.--Twelfth grade pupils ranked the physician as having the greatest general value to the community; the lawyer was ranked average; and, the clergy is viewed as having the lowest general value to the community.

¹Francis E. Merrill, Society and Culture: An Introduction to Sociology (New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1952), pp. 416-417.

TABLE 20

GENERAL VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY RANKING OF THE PROFESSIONS
BY EIGHTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PUPILS

8th Grade				12th Grade			
Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent	Rank	Profession	Num- ber	Per- cent
1	Social Worker	24	33.7	1	Physician	40	22.9
2	High School Teacher	11	15.7	2	Dentist	37	21.3
3.5	Physician	9	12.6	3	Social Worker	35	20.3
3.5	Clergy	9	12.6	4	High School Teacher	20	11.5
5	Lawyer	5	7.0	5	Lawyer	15	8.6
6.5	Business Executive	4	5.7	6	Business Executive	12	6.8
6.5	Dentist	4	5.7	7	Engineer	10	5.8
8	Engineer	3	4.2	8	College Professor	3	1.7
9	College Professor	2	2.8	9	Clergy	2	1.1
Total		71	100			174	100

Upper third rankings consist of the dentist, social worker, and physician; middle third rankings consist of high school teacher, lawyer, and business executive; the lower third rank-order scale consists of engineer, clergy, and college professor.

Eighth and Twelfth Grade Images.---Both grades award the position of centrality to the lawyer and highest status to the social worker and the physician. The similarity evidenced in eighth grade and twelfth grade pupils' ranking of the professions in terms of general value to the community is further evidenced in the low rank awarded the college professor and engineer by both groups and in the position of centrality awarded to the lawyer for both groups.

The engineer is ranked low in general value to the community because both groups are somewhat lacking in the knowledge of the engineering profession. The college professor is ranked low in general value to the community because both grades' educational training is centered around the high school teacher. Since the college professor has not yet entered into their educational realm, it is ranked low by both groups.

CHAPTER IV

COMPARISON OF ATLANTA AND CALIFORNIA SENIORS' PERCEPTION OF STATUSES AND IMAGES

The purpose of this chapter is to compare Atlanta and California seniors' perceptions of statuses and images of selected professions. It is assumed that twelfth grade Atlanta and California seniors are more comparable than are eighth grade pupils and California seniors. Seniors in the two studies are of corresponding grades and are similar in that they can view the professions in realistic terms because of the necessity of preparing for their life's work or profession.

Eighth grade pupils, on the other hand, have not reached the stage of viewing the professions realistically. They have not emerged from the ideal stage and their occupational choices tend not to be as stable as are twelfth grade pupils'.

Statuses presented for twelfth grade Atlanta seniors resulted from the ranking of professions on the bases of sex and grade. These factors are combined to give a general status position for each profession. Statuses presented for California seniors resulted from ranking the professions on the bases of sex, IQ, and social class. Nelson and McDonagh combined these factors and presented a general status for each profession.

In comparing the Atlanta and California seniors' images, only the grade factor for the respective groups is used with the high,

average, and low rank-order positions utilized.

Atlanta and California Seniors' Perception of Statuses

The clergy ranks high for California seniors but ranks low for Atlanta seniors (See Table 21).

TABLE 21

STATUS OF PROFESSIONS BY ATLANTA AND CALIFORNIA SENIORS

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1 (high)	Engineer	1 (high)	Clergy
2 (average)	Physician	2 (average)	Social Worker
3 (low)	Clergy	3 (low)	Business Executive

Historically, the clergy has had a high status among Negroes. In Atlanta, with a diversified Negro middle class, the clergy has failed to keep its monopoly on education and has lowered its status among Negroes. In California, the predominately white seniors have not experienced a drastic shift in the educational level of the clergy.

The engineering profession is ranked high in status by Atlanta seniors probably because engineers are few among Negroes; this gives the profession a glamorized status. In California, seniors awarded the business executive a low status. The range of professional opportunities for California seniors is greater than it is for Atlanta Negroes. Therefore, the business executive is ranked low. The

physician ranks as average for Atlanta seniors, and the social worker is ranked average for California seniors.

General Appearance Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--There is no difference in rankings for the average and low positions. Both groups awarded the clergy an average general appearance rank and the engineer a low general appearance rank. However, the physician ranked high for Atlanta seniors and the business executive ranked high for California seniors (See Table 22). Both groups also ranked the social worker eighth in general appearance.

TABLE 22

GENERAL APPEARANCE RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1	Physician	1	Business Executive
2	Business Executive	2	Physician
3	College Professor	3	Lawyer
4	High School Teacher	4	Dentist
5	Clergy	5	Clergy
6	Dentist	6	College Professor
7	Lawyer	7	High School Teacher
8	Social Worker	8	Social Worker
9	Engineer	9	Engineer

Generally, the manner of dress is the basic factor considered by the pupils in ranking the professions on the basis of general appearance. The professions they perceive as being the best dressed and the most impressive in their mannerism are usually the ones they tend to rank high; those that do not impress them in terms of dress and mannerisms are generally ranked low. In the Negro community, the physician is consistently better dressed than is the business executive. The same conditions are not necessarily true in California.

Personality Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--There is no difference in ranking for the highest and lowest positions. Both groups awarded the clergy the highest position on the rank-order scale and the engineer the lowest position on the rank-order scale. The dentist is ranked average by California seniors; the lawyer is ranked average by Atlanta seniors (See Table 23).

The high tribute paid the clergyman in terms of personality is centered around his association and involvement with a large number of people. It is assumed that personality is the factor which enhances this relationship. Therefore, it may not be that the clergy has the best personality but that it is needed to maintain some semblance of being liked by his followers.

The engineer ranked low in personality because it is not a necessary factor in dealing with his associates, nor is it quite necessary for the dentist or lawyer who deal mainly with individuals. The similarity between the two groups is great.

TABLE 23

PERSONALITY RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1	Clergy	1	Clergy
3	College Professor	2	Social Worker
3	Social Worker	3	Physician
3	High School Teacher	4	High School Teacher
5	Lawyer	5	Dentist
6.5	Dentist	6	Lawyer
6.5	Physician	7	Business Executive
8	Business Executive	8	College Professor
9	Engineer	9	Engineer

Intelligence Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--The college professor and physician are ranked high by California and Atlanta seniors, respectively; high school teacher and lawyer are awarded average positions, respectively; and social worker and high school teacher are awarded low positions, respectively (See Table 24).

The California seniors awarded the high and average positions to persons in the academic area while the Atlanta seniors awarded these positions to the money making professions. Thus, the California seniors valued the amount of education highly and the Atlanta seniors placed high importance on the money making image of the professions.

TABLE 24

INTELLIGENCE RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1	Physician	1	College Professor
2	Business Executive	2	Physician
3.5	Dentist	3	Lawyer
3.5	Engineer	4	Engineer
5	Lawyer	5	High School Teacher
6	College Professor	6	Dentist
7.5	Social Worker	7	Clergy
7.5	Clergy	8	Business Executive
9	High School Teacher	9	Social Worker

Honesty Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--A common average rank was awarded to the social worker by both groups. The clergy is ranked high by California seniors and low by Atlanta seniors. The dentist ranks high for Atlanta seniors and the business executive is ranked low by California seniors (See Table 25).

Environmental forces come into play and have a great bearing on how professions are viewed. Since pupils are generally unable to accurately determine which profession exhibits characteristics of honesty, they must rely heavily on the influences of the sub-culture which involves parents and the social class.

TABLE 25

HONESTY RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1	Dentist	1	Clergy
2	Physician	2	College Professor
3.5	College Professor	3	Physician
3.5	High School Teacher	4	High School Teacher
5	Social Worker	5	Social Worker
6	Engineer	6	Engineer
7	Lawyer	7	Dentist
8	Business Executive	8	Lawyer
9	Clergy	9	Business Executive

The following statement made by Hoppock partially explains the differences in the ranks awarded the professions by Atlanta and California seniors:

Most reasonable people will agree that the family and the social class in which we are reared helps to determine the occupation with which we are familiar, the occupation in which employment opportunities are presented to us, the occupation which we consider respectable and questionable (emphasis added by the writer), and some of the social needs we seek to meet in our occupational choices. Even the person who rebels against his family is influenced by it, and one can hardly deny the evidence that social organs have affected the occupational distribution of our population.¹

¹Hoppock, op. cit., p. 109.

The Atlanta seniors' sub-cultural influences, in reference to perceiving the professions in terms of honesty, may have caused them to perceive the dentist as most respectable and free of question; the clergy is perceived as more lacking in respect and more questionable. California seniors perceived the clergy, on the other hand, as most respectable and free of question; the business executive is perceived as more lacking in respect and more questionable. The social worker is perceived by both groups as average in honesty.

Prestige Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--The groups are different in their perception of prestige for the professions. The business executive and physician are ranked high by the respective groups because of the statuses they obtain from the society in general; the engineer and social worker are ranked low by the respective groups; the clergy and engineer hold the average rank-order positions (See Table 26).

Since prestige is usually awarded on the bases of occupational status and social class, it is perceived differently by members of varying social classes. The social classes within this study are somewhat equally distributed; however, it is believed that California seniors are more middle class oriented than are the Atlanta seniors. Therefore, the differences herein perceived by California seniors would approximate images based on homogeneous respondents, and the Atlanta seniors' perceptions would approximate images based on a heterogeneous group composition. The respective sub-groups to which

the seniors belong do not necessarily hold these professions in high esteem.

TABLE 26
PRESTIGE RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1	Business Executive	1	Physician
2	College Professor	2	Clergy
3	Lawyer	3	Business Executive
4	Social Worker	4	Lawyer
5	Clergy	5	Engineer
6	High School Teacher	6	College Professor
7.5	Dentist	7	Dentist
7.5	Physician	8	High School Teacher
9	Engineer	9	Social Worker

Ralph H. Turner states that:

Within each class, however, there is much variation. The concept of social class is a useful research fiction or a genuine unit of social experience only because there is usually consistency between such variables as a way of life, advantage and disadvantages of life situation, subjective sense of standing in society, and social characteristics of one's most accessible associates.¹

¹Ralph H. Turner, "Some Family Determinants of Ambitions," Sociology and Social Research, XLVI (July, 1962), 397.

Power Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--A common high rank was awarded to the clergy by both groups. Here again, the clergy exercises power due to his association with masses of people. The professions that service people individually are ranked lower than those which deal with large groups of people at one time (See Table 27).

TABLE 27

POWER RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1	Clergy	1	Clergy
2	College Professor	2	College Professor
3	Social Worker	3	Lawyer
4	Dentist	4	High School Teacher
5	Lawyer	5	Physician
6	Physician	6	Business Executive
7.5	High School Teacher	7	Social Worker
7.5	Business Executive	8	Engineer
9	Engineer	9	Dentist

The dentist is ranked low by California seniors. Basically, this profession is not one that is often in the limelight. The dentists' influence is with those they serve. This explanation applies also for the engineer who is ranked low by Atlanta seniors. These two

professions are not necessarily involved with people in groups and thereby have limited influence.

Security Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--A common low position was awarded to the business executive by both groups. He is perceived as low in security because pupils view business, except big business, to be tenuous in nature. Small businesses have a very high failure rate (See Table 28).

TABLE 28
SECURITY RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1	College Professor	1	Dentist
2	High School Teacher	2	Social Worker
3	Engineer	3	Clergy
4.5	Social Worker	4	College Professor
4.5	Clergy	5	Engineer
6	Lawyer	6	High School Teacher
7.5	Dentist	7	Lawyer
7.5	Physician	8	Physician
9	Business Executive	9	Business Executive

The dentist is ranked as the most secure profession by California seniors. He is least likely to worry about salary and

promotion. Since the dentist and doctor operate on fees, California seniors are inconsistent in their ranking of the professions.

The college professor is ranked as the most secure profession for Atlanta seniors. He receives a fixed dependable salary and knows what his income will be each year; he is not dependant on clients' fees or on the "ups and downs" of business. Also, security for the college professor is gained from amassing a store of knowledge.

Basically, Atlanta and California seniors' choices are emotional and are based on how the occupation appears to them; they know very little about the actual factors that render a profession secure.

Hoppock states the following in reference to the interplay of emotions on occupational choices:

One may observe that a pupil's emotions can affect his choice among only those occupations of which he is aware and the emotional responses to any contemplated choice is a response to what the pupil believes it to be.¹

Therefore, pupils ranked the professions on how they appeared to them and on what they believed them to be.

Income Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--Both groups awarded the highest status for the variable of income to the physician and the lowest position to the clergy. The average rank is awarded to the dentist and engineer for California and Atlanta seniors, respectively (See Table 29).

¹Hoppock, op. cit., p. 104.

TABLE 29
INCOME RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1	Physician	1	Physician
2	Lawyer	2	Business Executive
3	Business Executive	3	Lawyer
4	Dentist	4	Engineer
5	Engineer	5	Dentist
6	College Professor	6	College Professor
7	High School Teacher	7	High School Teacher
8	Social Worker	8	Social Worker
9	Clergy	9	Clergy

Economic and sociological factors have a definite influence on the rank pupils award to certain occupations. Hoppock makes the following summarization in reference to economic and sociological factors and their influence on occupational choices:

Caplow, Carp, Clark, Hollingshead, Miller and Form, and Warner and Abegglen have given us convincing evidence that economic and sociological factors do limit the range of some occupations to which a person has access, do direct his attention to some occupations and away from others, and do affect the occupational distribution of the population.¹

¹Ibid., p. 107.

Because of economic and sociological factors, both groups are amazingly similar in ranking the professions on income.

Community Activity Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--The social worker and clergy ranked high for California and Atlanta seniors, respectively; the lawyer, engineer, and business executive ranked low for Atlanta and California seniors, respectively; and the physician and dentist ranked as average, respectively (See Table 30).

TABLE 30

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1	Clergy	1	Social Worker
2	College Professor	2	Clergy
3	High School Teacher	3	High School Teacher
4	Social Worker	4	College Professor
5	Physician	5	Dentist
6	Dentist	6	Engineer
7	Business Executive	7	Physician
8.5	Engineer	8	Lawyer
8.5	Lawyer	9	Business Executive

Individual Aid Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--The common choice for the average position by both groups was awarded to the high school teacher. The highest position for Atlanta seniors was a tie between the physician and social worker; the clergy is ranked first for California seniors. The lowest position for the Atlanta seniors was awarded to the college professor and engineer; the business executive holds the lowest position for California seniors (See Table 31).

TABLE 31

INDIVIDUAL AID RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1.5	Physician	1	Clergy
1.5	Social Worker	2	Physician
3.5	Clergy	3	Social Worker
3.5	Dentist	4	Lawyer
5	High School Teacher	5	High School Teacher
6	Business Executive	6	Dentist
7	Lawyer	7	College Professor
8.5	College Professor	8	Engineer
8.5	Engineer	9	Business Executive

Ideas conjured in the minds of the Atlanta and California seniors while ranking the professions on individual aid probably

centered around the factor of the service ideal of the profession rather than around actual participation and aid in community affairs.

The physician, social worker, and clergy ranked high by Atlanta and California pupils because of the many services that they ideally render. The business executive, college professor, and engineer are ranked low by the respective groups because their services appear to have little utility for all persons in society.

Altruism Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--Both groups perceive the rank-order positions for altruism in a different way. There are no common choices in regard to the highest, average, or lowest positions. The social worker is ranked highest for Atlanta seniors and the clergy holds the top position for California seniors. Average positions were given to the dentist and college professor for Atlanta and California seniors, respectively; and low positions were given to the lawyer and business executive, respectively (See Table 32).

The social worker and clergy are professions designed to help individuals. In many cases, this help is considered as sacrificing for others when actually it is a part of their job.

The business executive is ranked low by the California seniors because he seems more interested in selling goods and services for profits rather than extending them as sacrifices. Their occupational role is not designed specifically to help others. The lawyer has a reputation for being unscrupulous.

TABLE 32

ALTRUISM RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1	Social Worker	1	Clergy
2	Physician	2	Social Worker
3	College Professor	3	Physician
4	Clergy	4	High School Teacher
5	Dentist	5	College Professor
6.5	High School Teacher	6	Dentist
6.5	Business Executive	7	Lawyer
8	Engineer	8	Engineer
9	Lawyer	9	Business Executive

General Value to the Community Ranking

Atlanta and California Senior Images.--A high common ranking on general value to the community is awarded the physician. All individuals basically are concerned with their health. The clergy is ranked lowest by Atlanta seniors possibly because few pupils aspire to the clergy. The business executive is ranked low by California seniors not because they do not aspire to become businessmen, but because the businessman is profit oriented (See Table 33).

In many cases, students place a high premium on the occupation they plan to follow for their life's work and a low premium on the occupations they do not plan to follow for their life's work.

Many factors are considered by the students when ranking the profession on the variable of general value to the community. The one factor that seems outstanding in pupil's mind is to determine the value of a profession when all variables are taken as a whole. They rely on the technical, educational, and social influences presented to them through social orientation.

TABLE 33

GENERAL VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY RANKING

Atlanta		California	
Rank	Profession	Rank	Profession
1	Physician	1	Physician
2	Dentist	2	Clergy
3	Social Worker	3	Engineer
4	High School Teacher	4	Dentist
5	Lawyer	5	High School Teacher
6	Business Executive	6	Lawyer
7	Engineer	7	College Professor
8	College Professor	8	Social Worker
9	Clergy	9	Business Executive

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In this study, an attempt was made to determine how eighth and twelfth grade pupils perceived statuses of selected professions on the bases of sex and grade; how the images of the professions compared when eighth and twelfth grade pupils rank each profession on the bases of twelve variables; how Atlanta twelfth grade pupils' perceptions of statuses and images compared with those of California seniors.

Perception of Statuses

Eighth Grade Perceptions of Statuses.--Eighth grade pupils ranked the business executive highest in status; the dentist and clergy ranked lowest in status; the position of centrality is awarded to the high school teacher.

Eighth Grade Males' Perceptions of Statuses.--Eighth grade male pupils ranked the engineer highest in status; the high school teacher ranked lowest in status; the position of centrality was given to four equally ranked professions: social worker, lawyer, dentist, and clergy.

Eighth Grade Females' Perceptions of Statuses.--Eighth grade females ranked the business executive highest in status; the clergy was ranked lowest in status; the position of centrality was awarded to the college professor.

Twelfth Grade Perceptions of Statuses.--Twelfth grade pupils awarded the engineer the highest status; the clergy ranked lowest in status; the college professor was given the position of centrality.

Twelfth Grade Males' Perceptions of Statuses.--Twelfth grade male pupils awarded the engineer the highest status; the clergy ranked lowest in status; the social worker and physician were given the positions of centrality.

Twelfth Grade Females' Perception of Statuses.--Twelfth grade female pupils ranked the high school teacher highest in status; the clergy is ranked lowest in status; the college professor is ranked in the position of centrality.

Conclusions on Status Rankings

The hypothesis as to observable differences in the perceptions of statuses by eighth and twelfth grade pupils on the bases of sex and grade is not supported.

Grade Factor.--The grade difference hypothesis is not supported for the following reasons:

1. Both eighth and twelfth grade pupils perceive the relative statuses of engineer and business executive as high on the rank order scale (See Table 1).
2. Both grades perceive the relative statuses of lawyer and social worker as average on the rank-order scale.
3. Both grades rank the college professor, dentist, and clergy low in status.

Sex Factor.--The sex differences hypothesis is not supported for the following reasons (See Table 4):

1. Males accorded the highest status to the engineer; the first choice for females was given equally to the business executive, physician, and high school teacher.

2. Males made no distinction between the social worker, lawyer, dentist, and clergy for the central status position; females ranked the college professor in the central position.

3. The college professor and high school teacher tied for the lowest rank among male students; engineer, dentist, and clergy tied for lowest position among females. These professions did not receive any female responses.

4. The males and females differed most in their rankings for the engineer and high school teacher.

Eighth Grade Pupils' Perceptions of Images

Business Executive.--The business executive ranked in the upper third on seven variables: general appearance, power, security, prestige, intelligence, personality, and income; the profession ranked in the middle third on two variables: altruism and general value to the community; and in the lower third on three variables: individual aid, community activity, and honesty.

Clergy.--The clergy ranked in the upper third on the variables of community activity, power, and general value to the community; it ranked in the middle third for the variables of honesty, individual aid, altruism, personality, prestige, and security; in the lower

third for the variables of general appearance, intelligence, and income.

Dentist.--The dentist ranked in the upper third on only one variable--income. The profession ranked in the middle third on four variables: community activity, honesty, altruism, and general value to the community; it ranked in the lower third on seven variables: power, personality, general appearance, individual aid, security, prestige, and intelligence.

College Professor.--The college professor ranked in the upper third on the variables of intelligence, prestige, and honesty; in the middle third on the variables of security, individual aid, general appearance, personality, income, and community activity; in the lower third on the variables of altruism, power, and general value to the community.

Engineer.--The engineer ranked in the upper third on the variables of power and income; in the middle third for the variables of honesty and general appearance; in the lower third on eight variables: altruism, community activity, individual aid, prestige, intelligence, general value to the community, personality, and security.

High School Teacher.--The high school teacher ranked in the upper third on seven variables: security, honesty, altruism, individual aid, personality, community activity, and general value to the community. The profession ranked in the middle third on general appearance, power, prestige, and intelligence, and in the lower third on the variable of income.

Lawyer.--The lawyer ranked in the upper third on the variables of intelligence, power, and general appearance; it ranked in the middle third on the variables of general value to the community, individual aid, personality, prestige, and income; in the lower third on the variables: community activity, altruism, honesty, and security.

Physician.--The physician ranked in the upper third on nine variables: general appearance, intelligence, honesty, prestige, security, income, individual aid, altruism, and general value to the community; in the middle third on three variables: personality, power, and community activity. The profession did not rank in the lower third for any of the variables.

Social Worker.--The social worker ranked in the upper third on the variables of altruism, personality, individual aid, community activity, and general value to the community; the profession ranked in the middle third on the variables of general appearance, power, and intelligence and in the lower third for the variables of honesty, prestige, income, and security.

Twelfth Grade Pupils' Perception of Images

Business Executive.--The business executive ranked in the upper third on prestige, intelligence, general appearance, and income; it ranked in the middle third on general value to the community, individual aid, and altruism, and in the lower third on power, community activity, personality, security, and honesty.

Clergy.--The clergy rated in the upper third on the variables of community activity, power, personality, and individual aid; in the

middle third on altruism, general appearance, prestige, and security; and in the lower third of the variables of general value to the community, intelligence, honesty and income.

Dentist.--The dentist ranked in the upper third on the variables of general value to the community, intelligence, individual aid, and honesty; in the middle third for the variables of income, altruism, general appearance, power, personality and community activity. The profession ranked in the lower third on the variables of security and prestige.

College Professor.--The college professor rated in the upper third on the variables of honesty, altruism, prestige, general appearance, power, community activity, personality, and security; in the middle third on intelligence and income; and in the lower third on the variables of individual aid and general value to the community.

Engineer.--For the engineer, upper third rankings were given on the variables of security and intelligence; middle third rankings were given for honesty and income; and the profession ranked in the lower third on eight variables: general value to the community, prestige, individual aid, community activity, altruism, general appearance, power and personality.

High School Teacher.--The high school teacher ranked in the upper third on four variables: community activity, personality, honesty, and security; in the middle third on five variables: general value to the community, prestige, altruism, general appearance, and individual aid; and in the lower third on the variables of power, income and intelligence.

Lawyer.--The lawyer ranked in the upper third of the series of professions on two variables: prestige and income; in the middle third on five variables: security, intelligence, general value to the community, power and personality; and in the lower third on the variables of individual aid, general appearance, honesty, community activity, and altruism.

Physician.--The physician ranked in the upper third on seven variables: income, general appearance, general value to the community, individual aid, intelligence, altruism, and honesty; in the middle third on three variables: power, personality, and community activity; and in the lower third on the variables of security and prestige.

Social Worker.--The social worker rated in the upper third on the variables of altruism, individual aid, personality, general value to the community, and power. The profession rated in the middle third for community activity, prestige, security, and honesty; and in the bottom third on three variables: intelligence, income, and general appearance.

Conclusions on Image Rankings

The hypothesis as to observable differences manifesting themselves when eighth and twelfth grade pupils rank selected professions on twelve variables is supported by the following summaries for each profession:

1. The business executive's image for twelfth grade pupils is somewhat equally distributed and the image of the business executive for eighth grade pupils tends to center around the upper third on the

rank-order scale.

2. The clergy is ranked equally in all thirds by twelfth grade pupils; but the responses of the eighth grade pupils tend to center around the middle third ranks.

3. For the profession of dentist, the twelfth grade images tend more toward the middle third ranks; and the eighth grade pupils' images tend toward the lower third ranks.

4. The college professor's images for twelfth grade pupils tend more toward the upper third ranks; and the eighth grade pupils' images tend to be centered around the middle third ranks.

5. For the profession of engineer, the images for both grades tend to center around the lower third positions.

6. The high school teacher's images for twelfth grade pupils tend to be equally distributed; but the eighth grade images tend to center around the upper third ranks.

7. Generally, both groups' images of the lawyer are somewhat similar with the highest number of rankings in the middle thirds.

8. Basically, the two groups' images for the physician tend to center around the upper third positions on the rank-order scale.

9. The social worker's images for both groups are equally distributed on the rank-order scale.

The instances where there are similarities in the images of the professions are reflected in the images of the engineer, lawyer, physician, and social worker. Differences are found in the remaining five professions: business executive, clergy, dentist, college professor, and high school teacher.

California Seniors' Perception of Images

Images presented by Nelson and McDonagh show how California seniors perceive the professions on the bases of twelve variables.

Business Executive.--The business executive rated in the upper third for the variables for general appearance, prestige, and income, and in the lower third for all other variables except power (6th). For the variables of honesty, security, and all the service variables, the profession rated last.

Clergy.--The clergy rated in the upper third for all but three of the variables: general appearance (5th), intelligence, and income (9th). The profession rated first for the variable of personality, honesty, power, individual aid, and altruism.

College Professor.--For seven of the variables, the college professor rated in the middle third of the nine professions. For three variables the profession rated in the upper third: intelligence (1st), and for honesty and power (2nd). Lower third rankings were found for prestige (6th) and individual aid (7th).

Dentist.--For eight variables, the dentist was rated in the middle third of nine professions. The profession rated first for security, and for the remaining three variables rated in the lower third: honesty (7th), prestige (7th), and power (9th). The dentist, then, stood out from the rest of the professions for only two variables, security and power, rating first and last, respectively.

Engineer.--The engineer rated in the top third for only one variable, general value to the community (3rd). The engineering profession rated in the middle third for six variables and in the lower third for five variables: rating eighth for power, individual aid, and altruism and last for general appearance and personality.

High School Teacher.--The high school teacher rated in the upper third for community activity (3rd). The profession rated in the middle third of eight variables and in the bottom third for the variables of prestige (8th) and general appearance and income (7th).

Lawyer.--The lawyer ranked in the top of the series of professions for four variables; and ranked in the bottom

third for the variables of honesty and community activity (8th), and altruism (7th); and ranked in the middle third for five variables.

Physician.--The physician rated in the top third for nine variables, including first position for prestige, income, and general value to the community. The profession rated in the middle third for the variable of power and in the bottom third for security (8th) and community activity (7th).

Social Worker.--The social worker rated in the top third for the variables of community activity (1st), personality, security, and altruism (2nd), and individual aid (3rd). The profession rated in the middle third for honesty and in the bottom for six variables: power, general appearance, income, general value to the community, prestige, and intelligence.¹

Conclusions on Status Rankings for Atlanta and California Seniors

The hypothesis as to differences in the perceptions of statuses by Atlanta and California seniors is supported for the following reasons:

1. Atlanta seniors ranked the engineer highest in status; the physician was awarded the position of centrality; and the clergy was awarded the lowest status position of the rank-order scale (See Table 21).

2. California seniors ranked the clergy highest in status; the social worker was awarded the position of centrality; and the business executive was awarded the lowest status position on the rank-order scale (See Table 21).

¹Nelson and McDonagh, op. cit., pp. 13-14.

It is readily observed that these groups differ in their perceptions of statuses. No common ranks are evidenced for the two groups.

Conclusions on Image Rankings for Atlanta and California Seniors

The hypothesis as to differences in the perceptions of images by Atlanta and California seniors is supported for the following reasons:

1. The business executive's image for Atlanta seniors is somewhat equally distributed among the upper, middle, and lower thirds; the business executive's image tends more toward the lower third rankings for California seniors.

2. The clergy is ranked equally in all thirds by Atlanta seniors; his image for California seniors tends more toward the upper third ranking positions.

3. For Atlanta seniors, the images of the engineer center around the lower third positions; his images center around both the middle and lower thirds for California seniors.

4. The high school teacher's image tends to be equally distributed for Atlanta seniors; the images of the high school teacher for California seniors lean heavily toward the middle third ranks.

5. The lawyer's image for Atlanta seniors tends to center around the middle third ranks; the lawyer's image for California seniors is equally distributed among the thirds.

6. The physician's image tends to center around the upper third positions for Atlanta seniors; and his image tends to center

around the upper third positions for California seniors.

7. The college professor's image tends toward the upper third ranks for Atlanta seniors; his image tends toward the middle third positions for California seniors.

8. The dentist's image tends to center around the middle third ranks for Atlanta seniors; and his image tends to center around the middle third ranks for California seniors.

9. The social worker's image tends to be equally distributed among the thirds; the social worker's images for California seniors tend to lean heavily toward the upper and lower third positions.

Differences are found in seven of the nine professions. The profession of dentist is ranked toward the middle thirds by both groups, and the physician is ranked toward the upper thirds by both groups. The remaining seven profession's images differ significantly for both groups.

The difference in the preceptions of the groups may be due to the fact that the California sample consisted predominantly of an all white population and the Atlanta sample consisted of an all Negro population. Therefore, the underlying differences in the respective samples could be attributed to the proposition that ". . . characteristic attitudes and values derive from the social and cultural setting, and that due to conditions which differentiate the white and Negro populations sociologically, Negroes tend, at times, to respond to social and economic factors quite unlike the larger population."¹

¹Cecil C. North and Paul K. Hatt, "Jobs and Occupations: A Popular Evaluation," Opinion News, IX (September, 1947), 3.

There is much evidence to show that the opportunity structure for Negro and white pupils varies considerably, not only according to "race", but also according to region and other socio-cultural factors as well.

In summary, the hypothesis on observable differences in the perception of statuses of eighth and twelfth grade pupils on the basis of grade is not supported; it is supported on the basis of sex. The hypothesis on observable differences in the perception of images of eighth and twelfth grade pupils according to twelve variables is supported. The hypothesis on differences in the perception of statuses and images of Atlanta seniors and California seniors is supported.

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APPENDIX I

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
ATLANTA, GEORGIAQUESTIONNAIREPERCEPTION OF STATUSES AND IMAGES OF SELECTED PROFESSIONS
1964

PART I

1. My name is _____.
 2. My grade is _____.
 3. My age is _____.
 4. My sex is () Male () Female
 5. The job I plan to follow is _____.
 6. Do you plan to go to college? () Yes () No
-
-

PART II

INSTRUCTIONS: Listed below are several professions. You are to indicate your first choice of profession; your second choice of profession; your third choice of profession; and so on. By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choice.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
_____ Clergy	_____ Lawyer
_____ College Professor	_____ High School Teacher
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

PART III

INSTRUCTIONS: Listed on the following pages are twelve items. Read each item carefully and then follow the instructions that are indicated beside each item.

1. General Appearance: What is your first choice of profession in which general appearance is most important? What is your second choice; what is your third choice; and so on? By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
_____ Clergy	_____ High School Teacher
_____ College Professor	_____ Lawyer
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

2. Personality: What is your first choice of profession in which personality is most important? What is your second choice; what is your third choice, and so on? By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
_____ Clergy	_____ High School Teacher
_____ College Professor	_____ Lawyer
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

3. Intelligence: What is your first choice of profession in which intelligence is most important? What is your second choice, what is your third choice, and so on? By using the number 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
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_____ Clergy	_____ High School Teacher
_____ College Professor	_____ Lawyer
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

4. Honesty: What is your first choice of profession in which honesty is most important? What is your second choice; what is your third choice; and so on? By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
_____ Clergy	_____ High School Teacher
_____ College Professor	_____ Lawyer
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

5. Prestige: What is your first choice of profession in which prestige is most important? What is your second choice; what is your third choice; and so on? By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
_____ Clergy	_____ High School Teacher
_____ College Professor	_____ Lawyer
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

6. Power: What is your first choice of profession in which power is most important? What is your second choice; what is your third choice; and so on? By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure

that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
_____ Clergy	_____ High School Teacher
_____ College Professor	_____ Lawyer
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

7. Security (Freedom from worry): What is your first choice of profession in which security is most important? What is your second choice; what is your third choice; and so on? By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
_____ Clergy	_____ High School Teacher
_____ College Professor	_____ Lawyer
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

8. Income: What is your first choice of profession in which income is most important? What is your second choice; what is your third choice; and so on? By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
_____ Clergy	_____ High School Teacher
_____ College Professor	_____ Lawyer
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

9. Community Activity: What is your first choice of profession in which community activity is most important? What is your second choice; what is your third choice; and so on? By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
_____ Clergy	_____ High School Teacher
_____ College Professor	_____ Lawyer
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

10. Individual Aid (Helping others): What is your first choice of profession in which individual aid is most important? What is your second choice; what is your third choice; and so on? By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
_____ Clergy	_____ High School Teacher
_____ College Professor	_____ Lawyer
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

11. Altruism (Sacrificing for others): What is your first choice of profession in which individuals aid is most important? What is your second choice; what is your third choice; and so on? By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to your ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive	_____ Engineer
_____ Clergy	_____ High School Teacher
_____ College Professor	_____ Lawyer
_____ Dentist	_____ Physician
_____ Social Worker	

12. General Value to the Community: What is your first choice of profession in which general value to the community is most important? What is your second choice; what is your third choice; and so on? By using the numbers 1 through 9 make sure that you number all professions from your first to ninth choices.

_____ Business Executive

_____ Engineer

_____ Clergy

_____ High School Teacher

_____ College Professor

_____ Lawyer

_____ Dentist

_____ Physician

_____ Social Worker

CAREFULLY READ OVER THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE NOT OMITTED ANY OF THE ITEMS.

APPENDIX II

TABLE 34

COMPILATION OF EIGHTH GRADE RANKINGS OF PROFESSIONS FOR TWELVE VARIABLES

Profession	General Appearance Rankings	Personality Rankings	Intelligence Rankings	Honesty Rankings	Prestige Rankings	Power Rankings	Security Rankings	Income Rankings	Community Activity Rankings	Individual Aid Rankings	Altruism Rankings	General Value to the Community Rankings
Business Executive	1	2	3	7.5	2	1	1	2	9	7.5	6	6.5
Clergy	8.5	4	8	6	4	3.5	5	8.5	1	4	4	3.5
Dentist	8.5	9	9	4	9	9	9	3.5	6	9	5	6.5
College Professor	4	6	1	2	3	8	4	5.5	4.5	5.5	9	9
Engineer	6	8	7	5	7.5	3.5	7	3.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	8
High School Teacher	6	3	5	3	5.5	6	3	7	2	3	3	2
Lawyer	2	6	3	9	5.5	2	7	5.5	7.5	5.5	7.5	5
Physician	3	6	3	1	1	6	2	1	4.5	2	2	3.5
Social Worker	6	1	6	7.5	7.5	6	7	8.5	3	1	1	1

TABLE 35

COMPILATION OF TWELFTH GRADE RANKINGS OF PROFESSIONS FOR TWELVE VARIABLES

Profession	General Appearance Rankings	Personality Rankings	Intelligence Rankings	Honesty Rankings	Prestige Rankings	Power Rankings	Security Rankings	Income Rankings	Community Activity Rankings	Individual Aid Rankings	Altruism Rankings	General Value to the Community Rankings
Business Executive	2	8	2	8	1	7.5	9	3	7	6	6.5	6
Clergy	5	1	7.5	9	5	1	4.5	9	1	3.5	4	9
Dentist	6	6.5	3.5	1	7.5	4	7.5	4	6	3.5	5	2
College Professor	3	3	6	3.5	2	2	1	6	2	8.5	3	8
Engineer	9	9	3.5	6	9	9	3	5	8.5	8.5	8.5	7
High School Teacher	4	3	9	3.5	6	7.5	2	7	3	5	6.5	4
Lawyer	7	5	5	7	3	5	6	2	8.5	7	9	5
Physician	1	6.5	1	2	7.5	6	7.5	1	5	1.5	2	1
Social Worker	8	3	7.5	5	4	3	4.5	8	4	1.5	1	3

TABLE 36

COMPILATION OF CALIFORNIA SENIORS' RANKINGS OF PROFESSIONS FOR TWELVE VARIABLES¹

Profession	General Appearance Rankings	Personality Rankings	Intelligence Rankings	Honesty Rankings	Prestige Rankings	Power Rankings	Security Rankings	Income Rankings	Community Activity Rankings	Individual Aid Rankings	Altruism Rankings	General Value to the Community Rankings
Business Executive	1	7	8	9	3	6	9	2	9	9	9	9
Clergy	5	1	7	1	2	1	3	9	2	1	1	2
Dentist	4	5	6	7	7	9	1	5	5	6	6	4
College Professor	6	8	1	2	6	2	4	6	4	7	5	7
Engineer	9	9	4	6	5	8	5	4	6	8	8	3
High School Teacher	7	4	5	4	8	4	6	7	3	5	4	5
Lawyer	3	6	3	8	4	3	7	3	8	4	7	6
Physician	2	3	2	3	1	5	8	1	7	2	3	1
Social Worker	8	2	9	5	9	7	2	8	1	3	2	8

¹Nelson and McDonagh, op. cit., p. 11.